

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

Chapter 1

There Will Be Consequences

MUSIC: (FADE IN) BLIZZARD OF OSBORN THEME

NARRATOR (V.O)

You're listening to The Blizzard of Osborn by Michael Sheen Cuddy. The Blizzard of Osborn is inspired by two distinct sources: L. Frank Baum's classic children's story The Wizard of Oz, and Miguel Ruiz's book, The Four Agreements.

The Blizzard of Osborn is a retelling of The Wizard of Oz, but instead of Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion, there are four different characters, each reflecting the principles of The Four Agreements:

- 1) Be impeccable with your word;
 - 2) Don't take anything personally;
 - 3) Don't make assumptions;
- and 4) Always do your best.

Chapter 1: There Will Be Consequences.

MUSIC: BLIZZARD OF OSBORN THEME (FADE OUT).

Scene One: Ext. Interstate highway – Day

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

SOUND: Highway traffic, kids playing in back seat of car

(FADE IN)

SOUND: Kid screaming, truck air horn blasting.

ELLIE

"Mimi! What did I say about screaming in the car?"

MIMI

"Sorry Mrs. Cole, but Fibber did the spider again."

ELLIE

"Fibber, stop picking on her, you hear?"

FIBBER

"OK — Cassie doesn't scream when I do the spider."

ELLIE

"Then do the spider on Cassie, not Mimi."

NARRATOR

The "spider" was Fibber sneaking his hand behind someone, brushing his fingers on their neck and shouting "Spider!" Cassie would just slap his hand away or say "lobster!" and pinch his leg which set off a round of giggling.

But Mimi screamed. A loud, piercing, fingernails-on-the-blackboard scream. *Screaming Mimi* was one of the nicknames Fibber had given her. That and *roly poly* after she put on twenty pounds over one summer. And for months after she peed herself at school he called her *Mimi pee me*.

In the past when school let out for summer Frank enjoyed driving his daughter Cassandra and her best friends, Fibber, Mimi and Rush to the beach. But this summer was different, this was the summer

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

of the inquiry.

SOUND: Kid screaming

ELLIE

"Mimi! I told you to stop screaming!"

MIMI

"Fibber is making faces at me!"

FRANK

[sighs]

ELLIE

"Frank, do you want me to drive?"

FRANK

"Maybe you should."

MUSIC: (Motor)

Scene Two: Ext. Beach – Day

NARRATOR

Late June, Biloxi, Mississippi. Hot.

SOUND: Wind, surf, seagulls, crowd at beach

NARRATOR (cont)

The beaches were crowded with volleyball players, sun worshippers, people watchers, and a few devil may care swimmers. As they raced for the water Fibber said he heard there was a shark attack at this very beach.

CASSIE

"You're making that up," Cassie said.

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

FIBBER

"No I'm not. I saw it on the news."

CASSIE

"When?"

FIBBER

"This morning."

CASSIE

"You did not."

FIBBER

"Did too. Sharks attacked 15 people right here this morning at 9 o'clock."

NARRATOR

Mimi stopped and said,

MIMI

"I think I'll go back and read my book."

CASSIE

"C'mon Mimi, if there were sharks, the red flag would be up. And the lifeguards wouldn't let anyone in the water."

NARRATOR

She pointed to the people splashing, trying to body surf in waves that weren't quite big enough.

FIBBER

"Mimi believed it, she got all nervous."

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

MIMI

"No I didn't. I just feel like reading my book right now."

RUSH

"Sharks aren't a problem at this beach, it's the rip tide you have to worry about."

CASSIE

"But Rush, the green flag is up today so there's no rip tide."

FIBBER

"Once I saw a beached whale here."

RUSH

"I assume this is another one of your fibs."

FIBBER

"No Rush, this is true. The whale was beached 'cause it was so fat it couldn't swim anymore. They cut it open and found 20 octopuses, 10 sharks, 5 squids and tons of sardines inside her."

CASSIE

"That's totally stupid. Whales don't eat octopuses or sharks or sardines. They eat plankton and krill."

MIMI

"I'm going back."

CASSIE

"We're almost there! C'mon!"

MIMI

"I know what Fibber's doing. The last time we came here, I put on my swim suit and he said I looked like a beached whale. I *hate* you Fibber!"

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

MUSIC: (Motor)

SOUND: Footsteps running in sand

CASSIE

"Mimi! Don't run away!"

MUSIC: (Motor)(FADE)

ELLIE

"Frank—you of all people—you know what's at stake here."

FRANK

"I know exactly what's at stake. And I want to do the right thing but....Look, I testify against a superior officer, it's not just *my* career. There *will* be consequences. They could come after you too. Or Cassie for that matter!"

ELLIE

"Frank."

FRANK

"Ellie, I'm telling you, if I go ahead with this they'll make our lives hell."

MIMI

"Can I have some pop Mrs. Cole?"

ELLIE

"Mimi—why aren't you with the others?"

MIMI

"Fibber's making fun of me again. Anyway I'd rather read in the shade."

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

SOUND: Footsteps walking in sand, wind, surf

ELLIE

"Frank, did you say *hell*? Like the hell they put Marcia through?"

NARRATOR

Marcia: there was a woman who'd had a taste of hell. Ellie had treated one too many Marcias. And knew of too many others who wouldn't go to Emergency Care or see a doctor for fear of reprisals. Then there were those who were too far gone to decide anything anymore. Those found by a sister, brother, neighbor or stranger who chanced upon them battered, bruised, cut, gagged or bound. Whoever found them might call 911, get an ambulance, get them to the hospital where Ellie did triage, helped get them to where they needed to be.

MUSIC: (Motor)

SOUND: Crowd at beach, wind.

CASSIE

"Let's go see Jet!"

NARRATOR

After Cassie, Fibber and Rush gave up on body-surfing they went to visit Jet in her "favorite spot," a little oasis of shade beneath a palmetto tree. Cassie knelt down and petted her black cat. Checked her water bowl to see that it was still free of sand and adjusted her beach umbrella.

A strange man was standing near Jet, contorted sunburned face smoking a cigar stub.

STRANGE MAN

"Is this your cat?"

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

CASSIE

"Yeah, isn't she cute?"

STRANGE MAN

"Pets ain't allowed on the beach."

CASSIE

"She's OK, she won't bother anyone."

STRANGE MAN

"He's bothering me! You know what cats do in the sand? They shit in it! You're spreading disease, you know that?"

NARRATOR

Cassie looked stunned. The man had yelled "shit" at her, and blamed Jet for spreading disease. The man flicked his cigar stub into the sand and stomped off, muttering...

STRANGE MAN

"What kind of idiot brings a goddamn cat to the beach?"

NARRATOR

Cassie went to to tell her parents about the angry man.

MUSIC: (Motor)

SOUND: Crowd at beach, surf, seagulls

ELLIE

"You know, if he was drinking on duty, or gambling a bit, I understand you might look the other way, but *this*—"

CASSIE

"Daddy, some man said Jet is spreading disease."

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

FRANK

"Sorry honey . . . who said what?"

NARRATOR

Cassie told her parents about the irate beach goer. Her father asked if the man was still there. Cassie told him he'd left, looking angry. Frank glanced at Ellie.

CASSIE

"The man said pets aren't allowed on the beach."

FRANK

"Unleashed pets aren't allowed on the beach, that's true, but Jet has a leash and she's better behaved than some of the mutts around here so don't worry. The man's just a grouch."

RUSH

"Hey guys--let's build sand a castle!"

SOUND: Kids running away

ELLIE

"Frank, you have to stand up for Marcia. You just have to! It's the principle."

FRANK

"I know Ellie, I know. But you understand as well as I do--there will be a price to pay--a big price."

CASSIE

"Look! Fibber found a message in a bottle!"

NARRATOR

Fibber was holding up a Coke™ bottle. Its label was worn off

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

but the bottle's trademark shape and spiral bevels signalled Coke™.

CASSIE

"There's a message inside!"

NARRATOR

She took the bottle from Fibber and tilted it sideways, showing a small yellow paper square, a Post-It note inside.

FRANK

"What does it say, Cassie?"

NARRATOR

She turned the bottle over to better display the message.

CASSIE

"It's a smiley face!"

ELLIE

"Maybe that means good luck."

FIBBER

"No, it just means some retard drew a smiley face on a Post-It note and threw it in the ocean."

ELLIE

"Fibber, I told you not to use that word."

MUSIC: (Blizzard Theme)

NARRATOR

Next: the worst blizzard in the history of Osborn is fast approaching!

MUSIC: (Blizzard Theme) (FADE)

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

[end Chapter 1]