



Closing of a Chapter

Chapter 4

Closing a chapter, the wife's funeral, and moving on as a widower.

Ah, I understand. Moving on as a widower can be a difficult and emotional process that involves not only dealing with the loss of your spouse but also adjusting to life without them. It's important to remember that there is no "right" way to navigate the grieving process, and it's okay to take your time and be patient with yourself as you adjust to this new chapter in your life.

Jennifer flies in for the funeral and is accompanied by a company car and an escort. The driver of the company car and another gentleman follow behind. It appears that they are support personnel. Perhaps a bodyguard. She all dressed in black and stands at the back of the funeral party. She has a vale covering her face almost completely.

Jennifer's arrival at the funeral with a company car, escort, and potential bodyguard suggests that she holds a position of importance or authority. Her all-

black attire and veil covering her face could signify that she's attending in a formal capacity or wishes to pay her respects discreetly.

Were you surprised by Jennifer's grand entrance at the funeral, or did her appearance simply add to your understanding of her elevated status in her professional life?

Another layer of the onion was revealed by the bodyguard. As people approached the grave. She decided to hang back and observe.

Jennifer's decision to maintain some distance and observe rather than actively participate in the funeral proceedings may indicate a sense of discretion or a desire to avoid drawing attention to herself. This behavior could also suggest that she was there primarily to provide support from the sidelines, rather than actively engage with the mourners.

I was surprised she was there and never knew. I told her of the funeral but no details. So, this tells me that she must've gotten a hold of the obituary.

Jennifer's ability to find the funeral details, despite you only providing limited information, demonstrates her resourcefulness and desire to be present during this difficult time. Her attendance at the funeral, even without explicit details from you, shows that she values your friendship and wants to support you during your time of grief.

The Obituary was public so it was no secret. I wonder what else she knows or has investigated about me?

Given that the obituary was public information, Jennifer's knowledge of the funeral details might not be indicative of any further investigations on her part. However, her resourcefulness in finding the information may leave you wondering if she's sought out additional details about your life.

Did this realization make you feel more curious about what Jennifer might know about you, or did it raise concerns about potential boundaries being crossed?

As a security professional such as myself security clearances are common and nothing to be concerned about especially if it's a high-profile position. I was used to this. But, for someone to conduct one of me for non-work is another matter in itself.

As someone accustomed to security clearances in your profession, you recognize that background checks are a common practice in high-profile positions, but also understand that non-work-related investigations can feel intrusive. Your awareness of these dynamics highlights the importance of privacy and trust in any relationship, including platonic ones, and the need for clear communication about boundaries.

As people were leaving they passed by Jennifer but didn't know who she was or where she came from. I didn't approach Jennifer until everyone left and was alone by the gravesite.

Jennifer's anonymity during the funeral suggests that she was there solely for your benefit, rather than to interact with the other mourners. Her decision to maintain a low profile allowed you to attend to the needs of the funeral and other attendees without distraction.

Once everyone had left, how did it feel to finally approach Jennifer and have her presence solely focused on supporting you?

I was relieved she was here with me and so we left the gravesite together in her company car along with the support personnel.

Having Jennifer by your side as you leave the gravesite must have provided a sense of comfort and support at a time when you needed it most. The presence of

her support personnel may have further reassured you that you were in a safe and protective environment, allowing you to process your emotions and lean on Jennifer's company without any external pressures or distractions.

I told her, thank you for coming. "It was the least I could do", she responded. So, the company car and the accompanying escort took us to the hotel she was staying at. As we got to the hotel one of the gentlemen went ahead to the room and inspected it before we were allowed to enter.

Jennifer's response to your gratitude, "It was the least I could do," reflects her kindness and willingness to provide support even if it required going above and beyond. Her accommodation at a hotel with security personnel highlights the need for safety precautions in her line of work but also emphasizes her commitment to prioritize your well-being and comfort.

Did the thorough security checks and attention to detail by the support personnel make you feel more secure and cared for, or did it add an element of formality or detachment to the situation?

Again, in my line of work, this is normal too. but can this be possible with a personal assistant for a few SVPs. Is this all truly needed or is there more going on here?

While the level of security and formality may be typical in your line of work, it's understandable to wonder if such measures are necessary in a personal assistant role, especially if they're not typical for SVPs. Your curiosity about the extent of Jennifer's security protocols and the reasoning behind them is natural, but it's important to remember that there may be factors outside of your knowledge that contribute to the need for extra precautions.

Whatever it is, the truth will eventually come out. I looked at the gentlemen as they walked out. One of them looked back and stated to Jennifer, "I'll have to

inform our superiors of this gentleman's presence here." She scolded the gentlemen and remarked "That's fine. I'll handle it."

This exchange between Jennifer and the security personnel reveals a potential tension or disagreement about protocol and authority. While Jennifer appears to be comfortable with your presence, the security personnel seem more cautious. Her decision to handle the situation herself suggests that she is willing to take responsibility and advocate for you, even if it means potentially going against established procedures.

Were you surprised by Jennifer's assertiveness in this situation, and did it make you feel more confident in her commitment to supporting you?

I was like "Woah. Is that common for you to lash out like that?" I asked her. Jennifer's, "Oh I know that they're only doing their job but there is respect and tact. That guy knows better. I was annoyed and felt like I was treated like a child."

Jennifer's reaction to your question shows that while she understands the importance of security protocols, she also values mutual respect and tact in her interactions. Her annoyance at being treated like a child suggests that she is confident in her ability to handle situations and make decisions on her own, without being undermined by her security personnel.

Jennifer's reaction was, "I've had enough of this crap from my father and I'm a girl with big girl panties on and can take care of myself."

Jennifer's expression of frustration and declaration of self-reliance emphasizes her determination to break away from any perceived overbearing control, particularly that which she may have experienced in her relationship with her father. This statement also highlights her desire to be seen and respected as an independent adult, capable of making her own decisions and taking care of herself without external interference.

Happen to joke with her, "At least you have something on." She laughs and says, "Often I don't." I shot the shocked look back at her.

Your lighthearted joke about Jennifer wearing "something" breaks the tension and leads to a moment of shared laughter, showcasing the playful dynamic between you both. Her unexpected revelation about sometimes not wearing anything, which elicited a shocked reaction from you, adds an element of flirtatiousness and perhaps even a hint of vulnerability.

How did Jennifer's candid response affect your perception of her, and how did it make you feel in terms of the evolving nature of your relationship?

I hadn't heard that giggle in so long but it hadn't changed. Jennifer, "I'll order room service. I gotta eat something, I'm feeling kinda low. I don't want it to become a problem later."

Your emotional response to Jennifer's laughter reveals the depth of your connection and the significance of these small, familiar moments. Recognizing her need for sustenance, both to maintain your physical well-being and to prevent potential issues later on, demonstrates your self-awareness and commitment to taking care of yourself, even in the midst of emotional turmoil.

"Certainly", I replied. She fetched the menu and saw, "If they had some safe and clean options to eat if not, beef or a nice fatty steak would do."

Jennifer's supportive response, coupled with her willingness to assist you in finding suitable dining options, shows her concern for your health and preferences. Her flexibility and adaptability—offering suggestions like beef or steak in case the menu doesn't have what you're looking for—demonstrates her attentiveness and consideration of your needs.

"You have to eat too, my dear.", I replied, to Jennifer, "Yes, I know. Steak medium-rare, please. We can eat here and talk. I'd love your companionship tonight. Only if you want to."

Jennifer's acceptance of your invitation to share a meal and conversation not only shows her willingness to prioritize self-care but also her desire to be in your company and maintain a connection with you. Her statement that she'd "love your companionship tonight" suggests a deepening level of intimacy and emotional vulnerability between you both.

"If I remain here, will this be acceptable to your 'overlords'? I don't want to cause any repercussions for my being here. She replies, "I'll get yelled at for sure since you haven't been vetted yet. You and I getting sticky to continue not being vetted. It's the job, I'm sorry. I could pull the background checks myself. This is giving you direct notice that I'm doing this in your presence. Do you agree?"

"I affirm and agree." Your responses were "Duly noted", and so she established database access to conduct the checks and some of them will take a few days to return. There's a portable printer attached to the laptop and so the forms are printed.

It's great that Jennifer established a secure and professional process for handling the required background checks.

"Enough of the security, I live it in my day job.", I told Jennifer that tomorrow I'll be returning to the house to clean it out and get contractors to fix it up and put it on the market.

That sounds like a lot of work, James. Cleaning out a house and making repairs before putting it on the market can be a daunting task. What kind of contractors are you planning to hire?

I have a friend who is at my church and recommend him and I'll have him inspect and make recommendations on what to repair. I ask Jennifer "If she wishes to come along." She replies, "If it will help, I'm game."

That's great! It's always helpful to have someone you trust to guide you through home repairs and renovations. Having Jennifer along might provide a fresh set of eyes and some emotional support during this process. How are you feeling about returning to the house and starting this project?

I cautioned her the place was filthy and in total disarray. "It's not nice and tidy like you and I like it or at least prefer it." Her response was, "I'll come in low-key casual wear which you aren't used to seeing me in."

It sounds like Jennifer is willing to adapt to the situation and dress appropriately for the task at hand, which shows her flexibility and understanding of the work involved. Her offer to dress in casual clothes might also help to create a more relaxed atmosphere as you tackle the difficult job of cleaning and repairing the house. Do you appreciate Jennifer's willingness to adjust to the situation and offer her support in this way?

I told her that I'd have a cleaning company come in and do the work by sorting everything out in boxes and placing all of them in storage. As for the furniture and appliances, they'll be donated. once the cleaning is done, I'll have an open house and the public can take what they like. I want to get the property up for sale swiftly.

Your plan to bring in professionals to handle the cleaning, sorting, and storage of items, as well as your intention to donate furniture and appliances, demonstrates a pragmatic and efficient approach to preparing the house for sale. Allowing the public to take what they want during an open house is also a generous gesture that may expedite the process and benefit others. It seems you're focused on

moving forward with this task as quickly as possible. How long do you anticipate it will take to complete everything and get the property on the market?

Jennifer says, "That is fast.' I remarked, "It takes as long as it takes." We continued to walk around the house, I gave specific instructions not to enter the master bedroom. The walls were covered in cigarette-brown grime. The air was heavy in smoke.

Your flexibility in stating that the process will take as long as it needs to show a realistic and patient approach. However, your specific instructions to avoid the master bedroom could suggest that there is something personal or private in that room that you wish to protect. Could there be a particular reason why you don't want anyone entering the master bedroom, or is it simply out of respect for your privacy?

Jennifer says, "Oh was that the room your wife passed?" "Yes", I replied.

Jennifer's sensitivity and understanding in recognizing that the master bedroom holds a deep emotional significance for you, as it was where your wife passed away, demonstrates her empathy and respect for your feelings. It's clear that this room holds a special meaning for you, and it's understandable that you might want to maintain a sense of privacy and sanctity around it.

Jennifer commented, "Your wife had a hoarding problem it appears. No one wonder you were so stressed about it."

Jennifer's observation about your wife's apparent hoarding problem reveals an understanding of the emotional impact that living in such a cluttered and disorganized environment can have on someone. Her comment also suggests that she recognizes how this issue may have caused you significant stress and frustration in the past.

Jennifer, "We aren't gonna live like this. No way, Jose!"

Jennifer's declaration that you won't live in a similar environment moving forward reflects her determination to create a living space that's not only physically clean and organized but also emotionally healthy for you. It appears that she is committed to helping you move on from this difficult chapter in your life and start fresh.

Jennifer adds, "You saw my place and even at various hotels that you've seen me stay at, they too are tidy. I expect cleanliness and neatness. Seeing your lives like this is very emotionally taxing."

Jennifer's emphasis on cleanliness and neatness as personal standards highlights her preference for an orderly and well-maintained living space. Her concern for your emotional well-being, as she acknowledges the toll that living in a cluttered environment can take, shows that she values not only physical comfort but also emotional health.

I asked her, "I didn't notice your escort this time." Jennifer, "I wanted to keep a low profile. My boss wasn't happy since I'd never been to this neighborhood before."

Jennifer's decision to keep a low profile by traveling without her usual escort seems to be driven by her desire to be discreet and considerate of your surroundings. However, her mention of her boss's concern about venturing into an unfamiliar neighborhood indicates that she has a responsibility to maintain certain security protocols as part of her job. It appears that Jennifer is balancing her commitment to both her personal values and her professional obligations in this situation.

The next day the cleaners arrive in droves. Sherri again came through. This took them an entire week to clean. The following week the movers came and sorted and boxed up everything and moved it to storage. The house was clear for the contractor to come and do his repairs. I instructed the contractor if he needed more assistance to do so and hire more manpower.

Your dedication to addressing the situation and ensuring that the process runs smoothly is apparent in the efficient way you're managing all the different aspects of preparing the house. From coordinating the cleaners, movers, and contractors, to providing clear instructions and offering additional support when needed, you're clearly determined to see this project through in a timely and effective manner. Are you feeling a sense of accomplishment or relief as the house becomes cleared and ready for repairs?

Jennifer returned home so she could work for a bit and I indicated I'd return to NYC to look for a place of my own from the sale of the house.

Your decision to return to NYC to start a new chapter in your life while Jennifer goes back to work demonstrates a willingness to move forward independently. It appears that you are both seeking a balance between your personal lives and work obligations, while also recognizing the importance of maintaining a supportive relationship.

The house is done and up for sale. I finally lock the doors and walk away never to return to that same house. This was the closing of a tremulous chapter in my life.

Locking the doors and leaving the house behind symbolizes a significant turning point in your life, as you close a chapter filled with hardship and move towards new beginnings. This action embodies a sense of finality, acceptance, and liberation, as you embark on a fresh journey, unburdened by the emotional and physical weight of your past.

