

Birthday Cake
By Dan O'Keefe

2 chairs are set up facing each other, with The Kid sitting in one and the Dad standing, cutting a cake

Dad: There you go kiddo, one piece of birthday cake.

Kid: Thanks dad!

Dad: Now I'll just cut one for me, and we'll be good to go.

The Dad sits down with his cake and goes to take a bite.

Kid: Dad stop! You can't take a bite until I do!

Dad (slaps his forehead): How could I forget! Fine, I'll wait for you.

The Dad and Kid laugh one of those cheesy sitcom laughs.

The Kid goes to eat the cake, almost getting it into their mouth, but pauses and puts the fork back down.

Kid: Dad can I have some milk?

Dad: Sure thing.

The Dad gets the milk and pours the Kid a glass.

Dad: Now it's time to eat that cake!

The Kid just looks at the cake.

Dad: Just take that fork and put it in your mouth!

Kid: I don't know...

Dad: You don't know what?

Kid: Something's off with this cake.

Dad: What do you mean something's off?

Kid: I don't know, I'm getting a weird feeling about it.

Dad: About the whole cake or just that piece?

Kid: This piece.

Dad: Do you want to switch pieces?

Kid: Yeah sure...

The Dad switches his plate and the Kid's plate.

Dad: There, that piece looks perfectly fine. Now just go ahead and take a bite!

The Kid just looks at the cake.

Dad: Just... just take a bite! Like you do with all other food, you just put it in your mouth!

Kid: I don't know...

Dad: You don't know what?!

Kid: Something's off with this piece too.

Dad: Nothing's wrong with it! I was about to eat it; would I eat something that's fishy?

Kid: You eat salmon.

Dad: That's not the point! The cake is fine! Eat the cake!

Kid: Is there salmon in the cake?

Dad: Is there Salmon in the- NO THERE'S NOT SALMON IN THE CAKE!

Kid: But you just said the cake was fishy.

Dad: THE. CAKE. IS. FINE!

Kid: So, there's no fish in it?

Dad: THERE IS NO FISH IN THE CAKE!

Kid: Alright...

The Kid picks up his fork and takes an agonizingly long time to bring it towards their mouth. The Dad leans forward as the kid comes close to eating.

Kid: Are you sure there's no fish?

Dad: OH MY GOD! THERE IS NO FISH! WHO PUTS FISH IN A CAKE? HOW WOULD YOU EVEN PUT FISH IN A CAKE? IT'S JUST A NORMAL, SARA LEE BOX BIRTHDAY CAKE! IT IS PERFECTLY FINE, AND ONCE AGAIN, JUST SO IT'S PERFECTLY CLEAR, THERE IS NO FISH IN IT!

Kid: Alright, calm down Dad!

Dad: I'm sorry! I'm sorry, I lost my cool. Now, will you just please try the cake?

Kid: Yes, I'll try it.

Once again, the kid takes a long time to bring the cake to their mouth. The dad continues to lean forward in anticipation. Suddenly, the kid puts the fork down.

Kid: You know, I don't even want cake.

Dad: OH, FOR FUCK'S SAKE!

Blackout