

AMAZING
A 2.5-minute monologue
By JANE CAFARELLA

Drama

VALERIE meets her ex-husband's new wife at their son's concert.

Hello, again. It's funny, isn't it? How we meet a few times a year at these concerts.

Yes, he turns 17 next week. The youngest in the orchestra. Takes after my father. He played piano too.

Yes, he **is** amazing! Thank you. I am! *Very* proud!

Beat. She sips her wine.

I'm also angry.

You never guessed?

Over the years, I've tried to be polite. To keep things harmonious. Wouldn't want to be the angry ex-wife! Have to keep it together for the sake of the kids!

But I'm tired. Tired of pretending.

Do you know what it costs me to stand here and talk to you, to smile at him and pretend we are proud parents together? All three of us: me, you and my ex.

Do you know what he said when I told him I was pregnant? He said he'd deny paternity. He said I was 'fuckin' bitchy'. I have a file this big of the letters he wrote accusing me of ruining his life.

He never drove our son to piano lessons - or paid for them. He didn't spend six grand on a decent piano. He never paid school fees. He paid for lawyers to attack us both.

Yet here he stands, with me and you, his new wife, basking in our son's success. The proud father!

Amazing!

This is the last concert before college. I refuse to pretend any more. Pretending means he gets away with it – still.

Pretending comes at a cost I'm no longer willing to pay.

So now you know. Perhaps you always did? Perhaps you've been pretending to? Perhaps we both deserve a standing ovation for our performance – we women who play along?

She looks up. Here he comes. He got you a drink. How nice.

Oh, there go the bells. Time to go in.

She finishes her drink and places it on the table.

I hope you enjoy it – now that you know just how amazing it is.

314 spoken words

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