

# Caught!

*A radio play by Bernie Roehl, June 2008*

Chrissy: We're going to get caught.

Janet: We are *not* going to get caught!

Chrissy: We could get expelled!

Janet: Only if we get caught, which isn't going to happen. We've made it this far, I just have to get this desk drawer unlocked. We'll read over the exams, put them back exactly where we found them, and get out. Easy!

Chrissy: I dunno...

Janet: If we don't see those exams, we're both going to flunk out. Do you want to flunk out?

Chrissy: No...

Janet: So?

Chrissy: Okay, but just make it quick, okay?

*(We hear the sound of a desk drawer lock being picked, and the drawer sliding open)*

Janet: Got it!

*(We hear the door open and the lights flick on)*

Principal: And what have we here?

*(Janet and Chrissy both gasp, and start trying to explain themselves)*

Principal: Enough! It's very clear to me what's going on. The two of you were sneaking into my office, and stealing exams. You were going to sell the answers weren't you?

Janet: Sell them? No! We were....

Principal: Silence! Now, you both know that I could have you expelled for this. In fact, since you're breaking and entering, I could phone the local constabulary and have the two of you arrested. I wonder what your parents would say about that?

Chrissy: Please don't call the police! We weren't stealing, we just wanted to see the answers!

Principal: So you're not thieves, you're just a pair of little cheats, is that it?

Janet and Chrissy: Yes, sir.

Principal: Well, I can't very well turn a blind eye to this, can I? I must say, I've very disappointed in both of you. Janet, this doesn't really surprise me. You've been to my office many times, for smoking on school property, and carousing with boys, and selling those strange sex devices to other girls. But Chrissy... you've always been a model student. True, your grades have fallen this term, but I just assumed you were simply spending time with a bad crowd. And looking at you and your partner in crime here, I can see that I was quite right. And now see where it's gotten you.

Chrissy: I'm really, really sorry, Principal Stevens.

Principal: I need to give this matter some thought. I will expect to see the two of you here, in my office, promptly at half past nine tomorrow morning. Is that clear?

Janet and Chrissy: Yes, Principal Stevens.

*(Janet and Chrissy leave the office, whispering blame at each other)*

*(Morning. We hear the sound of the school bell)*

Janet: We're here to see Principal Stevens. He said to be here at 9:30, but we're a little bit late.

Mrs. Nelson: Yes, he waited for you, and he seemed quite upset that you weren't here. He said that I should bring you to him. Come with me.

*(We hear the three of them walking down the hallway. As they progress, we hear the sounds of a crowd murmuring, getting louder. We then hear a pair of gymnasium doors opening, and they continue walking across the floor of the gym, with crowd sounds all around them)*

Chrissy: I forgot we were having an assembly this morning.

Janet: Well, shouldn't we be taking our seats or something?

Mrs. Nelson: Just keep walking, girls.

*(They continue walking along the length of the gym, and up the)*

Chrissy: Why is she bringing us on stage?

Janet: I... I don't know...

*(The principal is heard over the public address system of the auditorium, and crowd sounds quiet down a bit)*

Principal: Thank you all for coming to this morning's assembly. Before we proceed with our usual announcements and such, I have a very unfortunate duty to perform. Girls, step forward.

*(We hear them walking slowly to the front of the stage)*

Principal: Chrissy and Janet here were found in my office last night. They had broken in, and were attempting to steal this afternoon's exams.

Chrissy: But we weren't stealing!

Janet: Ssh!!

Principal: I've decided that the best way to handle this would be with some traditional school discipline.

*(We hear the sound of a wooden cane swishing through the air, and the crowd gasping)*

Janet: A cane? You can't cane us! It's against the rules!

Chrissy: That's right! There's no more corporal punishment!

Mrs. Nelson: Um... the girls are right, Principal Stevens. The school board would never allow...

Principal: Oh, I'm quite aware of what the school board does and does not allow, Mrs. Nelson. And that's why I myself will not be applying the discipline. That task will fall to the girls themselves.

Janet and Chrissy: What?!?!?

Principal: Your alternatives are quite simple. Either do as I say, and the matter will be considered dealt with, or I can have you expelled and contact the police to have you charged. The choice, of course, is yours.

*(Chrissy and Janet argue about it, and finally...)*

Janet: All right, we'll do it. We just won't do it here, in front of everyone. Back in your office will do nicely.

Principal: I should say not! Believe me, young lady, you are in no position to be setting the terms. The purpose of this little exercise is to make it clear to your

classmates that your behaviour is unacceptable, and so the discipline will take place here and now or not at all. And if either of you fails to do an adequate job of disciplining the other, the slacker will receive the caning *and* expulsion. Do you understand?

Janet: Yes sir.

Chrissy: Yes, sir.

Principal: Excellent. Chrissy, if you would be so kind as to assume the position?

Chrissy: I... I'm not sure what that means.

Principal: It means you face away from the auditorium, bend over, and grab your ankles.

*(shuffling sounds as Chrissy gets into position)*

Principal: Now Janet, you raise Chrissy's skirt, and apply six sound cane strokes to her exposed posterior.

Chrissy: Wait! You never said anything about my skirt...

Principal: Are you backing out of our arrangement, Chrissy?

Chrissy: I... uh... no.

Principal: Remember, Janet – six of the best. And Chrissy, you'll be counting the strokes out loud.

*(There is a pause while the crowd goes absolutely silent. We hear Janet adjusting Chrissy's skirt, followed by a few quiet gasps from the crowd)*

*(a pause, then the sound of a cane swishing through the air and striking its target)*

*(the crowd gasps again, Chrissy yelps, whimpers a bit, and eventually says...)*

Chrissy: One.

*(the process is repeated five more times, with increasingly loud whimpers and wails from Chrissy)*

Principal: Well done, Janet. And now it's your turn.

*(we hear Janet and Chrissy exchanging places)*

*(we hear more clothing adjustment, and an even louder astonished gasp from the crowd)*

Principal: While not technically a violation of the school dress code, Janet, today might have been a good day to wear your panties.

Janet: Yes, Principal Stevens.

Principal: Ah well, no matter. From what I've heard, many of the young men here have already seen what you're now putting on display. Chrissy, you may begin.

Chrissy: This is for getting me in trouble!

*(cane stroke)*

Janet: Ow!!! One!

Chrissy: I used to be an "A" student, before I met you!

*(cane stroke)*

Janet: Two!

Chrissy: Now I'm lucky if I don't get expelled!

*(cane stroke)*

Janet: Three!

Chrissy: Oh, and while we're at it, this is for making out with my boyfriend Jack!

*(cane stroke)*

Janet: Four!

Chrissy: And this is for caning me so hard!

*(cane stroke)*

Janet: Five!

Chrissy: And this... this is... just cause I really really want to!

*(cane stroke)*

Janet: Six!!!!

Principal: Well done, Chrissy. You both did an excellent job, and provided a good example for all your assembled classmates. You may leave the stage now. Oh, and good luck on your exams this afternoon. I hope you don't find the discomfort of those hard wooden chairs too distracting. And now, on to today's announcements...

*(the principal's voice fades in the background as we hear the school bell and appropriate music)*