

Monitored

Rachel is a stressed-out, overworked single mom who is struggling to raise her two kids. We open up to a chaotic scene of her talking on the phone with her friend, Jessica, while also attempting to bake a cake and keep her kids from climbing a frighteningly tall tree in the backyard. She hangs up on her friend to reign in the kids (much to their frustration) and keep her cake from burning. Later that night, she lies exhausted on the couch, talking to Jessica on the phone. Jessica offers to watch the kids, suggesting that Rachel go out on a date, take some time off and stop overworking herself. Rachel initially refuses, saying that she has to be there for her kids, but eventually gives in to the idea of a night out, with the knowledge that the app on her phone will allow her to watch Jessica and the kids throughout the night.

Rachel meets her blind date, Ethan, at her door. Now unable to avoid going out, even if she wanted to, she introduces Ethan to the kids, attempting to disguise her obvious fear of leaving them. Ethan, for his part, just sees them as well-behaved, nice kids, and doesn't realize Rachel is as nervous as she is.

At dinner, the two of them are having a typical "get-to-know-you" conversation. It's nice and they click well. However, Rachel is distracted, constantly checking the app on her phone to make sure the kids are okay (while still trying to hide it from Ethan, knowing the stigma of helicopter parenting). She starts really worrying when she notices the kids doing seemingly dangerous things like leaning out of the window, or playing with matches (when really they're just lighting the stovetop). Eventually, her phone dies... right as she sees one of the kids pull out a large kitchen knife. Rachel freaks out, asking (very forcefully) to use Ethan's phone. Jessica doesn't pick up on the other end. Rachel has no choice but to use Ethan's car. By this point, Ethan is extremely confused and frustrated with how inattentive Rachel has been, but he has no choice but to take her back to her house.

Finally arriving back at her home, Rachel opens the door, expecting to see something horrible, and walks in on Jessica and the two kids eating a large chocolate cake, the kitchen knife sitting on the table, frosting all over it.

Realizing her error, Rachel apologizes to Jessica for not trusting her and to Ethan for causing such a terrible first date. The two of them accept her apology, and they sit down together with the kids to eat the cake.