

## Monitored

Rachel is an overstressed, single helicopter parent with three kids who is juggling working at home with taking care of them. She is overly busy and is constantly worried about her kids and that she isn't doing enough for them. Then her friend, Jessica, phones her to catch up, but she is too busy watching her kids to have a long conversation. However, Jessica learns that Rachel is in desperate need of a break but isn't going to let herself take one anytime soon. So the friend offers to set Rachel up on a blind date. Rachel doesn't want to worry about one more thing on her to do list, so she hurriedly declines. But Jessica persists and immediately sets Rachel up on a blind first date.

Leading up to the date, Rachel is nervous about leaving her kids at home with a babysitter because she hasn't left them out of her eyes since her husband passed away some time before. But eventually her friend convinces her that everything will be okay and that she could be her babysitter. To further convince her, she introduces her to a new app called Monitor, which is an app designed for parents to be able to watch their kids on their phone when they are in a different location (baby monitoring taken to the next level). The app gives Rachel more freedom in a way but also restricts her because she feels that she always needs to watch her kids, even when she is in the same house.

On the night of the blind date, Rachel struggles to get ready and cook dinner. The spaghetti is boiling over and one of her kids has just done something despicable (like squeezing out a whole tube of toothpaste in the sink). Luckily, Jessica opens the door just then and takes over, helping to entertain the kids and help with dinner. This reassures Rachel a little bit and Ethan arrives to pick her up. They drive together to go in the car, making casual small talk. While Ethan is paying attention to the road, Rachel sneaks a peek at her phone.

At the restaurant, Rachel is continually torn between trying to give her full, undivided attention to this man she has just met and worrying about her kids and what they might be doing. Back home, her kids are having fun with Jessica in a safe way even though it doesn't look like it sometimes (the angles of the video camera hides some things from Rachel). Rachel keeps worrying about her kids, but as she watches seemingly hazardous situations go okay (she goes into the bathroom to check), she is slightly more nervous and relaxed at the same time. She engages in conversation with Ethan but everytime there is a pause or he's not paying attention, she looks to see what her kids are up to.

She's used her phone so much that it starts dying, and she starts panicking again. She is in the middle of watching her three year old pick up a large knife when her phone dies. Rachel tries to be calm as she asks Ethan for his phone to call home. She tries to call Jessica, but she doesn't pick up because she left her phone in her purse and it's on vibrate. In shock/very scared about her children, Rachel convinces Ethan to drive her back home (uses an excuse?)

The whole way home is stressful because Rachel wants Ethan to drive faster, but is trying not to freak Ethan out. Back at home, Rachel busts in the door closely followed by Ethan, only to discover that everyone is quietly eating cake around the dinner table.

Rachel hugs her kids, and apologizes to her kids, then Jessica, then Ethan. She realizes that maybe she needs to give her kids a little more freedom and that she does need to spend more time doing things for herself. Ethan is impressed by her mama bird attributes and hugs her. They all sit down and finish eating cake together.