

VEGAN ELVIS (an excerpt from *Friends, With Kids* by Chloe Whitehorn)

Alice is crossing the parking lot. She puts in ear phones. Erika calls after her.

ERIKA

Alice. Excuse me. Alice! Ember's mom!

ALICE

Me?

ERIKA

Hi Alice. I've been trying to get a hold of you for a couple days.

ALICE

You have? Because... I know you?

ERIKA

Erika. Erika? I'm the twins' mom. Presley and Priscilla. They are in the same class as your daughter. I'm the PTA rep for the class. Parent teacher associ--

ALICE

Presely's mom.

ERIKA

And Priscilla. We met at Savannah's birthday party.

ALICE

So many birthday parties.

ERIKA

It was My Little Pony themed.

ALICE (*She does not remember but she's tired of this.*)

Of course, Priscilla and Presley's mom.

ERIKA

Erika.

ALICE

Yes Erika, of course.

ERIKA

I still haven't received your response to the Sign Up Genius for what you are bringing to next week's PTA teacher's appreciation luncheon.

ALICE

You named your twins Priscilla and Presley?

ERIKA

Yes. Did you have a chance to look at the list? Most of easier items are taken already but there's still--

ALICE

Easier items?

ERIKA

Well you seem... overwhelmed a bit and I wouldn't want to burden you with more than you can--

ALICE

No I'm fine. I mean, I haven't really figured out how to make time to look in a mirror in the morning but... How does everyone here look like they just walked out of a salon? Like their hair is curled and they're coifed out the... Out west you woke up and put on clothes and walked out the door and thats what you looked like. Here everyone looks like they're about to cross a pageant stage for televised judging. How do they do that, with KIDS?

ERIKA

Some of them have nannies.

ALICE

They have what? They're stay at home moms. How do they have nannies?

ERIKA

Well not everyone. Women here grow up knowing that how you present yourself to the world is important so they make the time. Anyways, I was going to say I was going to bring the cut veggies plate because I'm a little wracked for time with the

children's schedules and I was already cutting vegetables for the soccer tri-states, but you can have that and I'll make the vegan cake.

ALICE

I can do that.

ERIKA

Oh you bake vegan?

ALICE

Well I haven't but I can pick one up.

ERIKA

Oh it can't be store bought. It has to be made with organic, locally sourced ingredients.

ALICE

Duh, of course. I mean, I can totally look up a recipe.

ERIKA

You're sure?

ALICE

Completely. I mean, I only have two kids. You were going to do it and you have what three--

ERIKA

Six children.

ALICE

Six?! Oh my god.

ERIKA

Yes we're very blessed.

ALICE

You must really like your husband.

ERIKA

What is that noise?

Friends, With Kids (excerpt)

ALICE

Huh? Oh, I left my music playing.

ERIKA

That's music? What kind?

ALICE

Icelandic death metal.

ERIKA

... Alright. Well, the luncheon is on Tuesday so if you have any trouble just let me know before the weekend is over alright?

ALICE

Won't be a problem.

ERIKA

Have a nice day.

ALICE

You too.