

UN-Edited Excerpt:

I woke up to the sound of my girlfriend saying Everette! Everette! You don't have to work today. I check the time on my phone. Like ohh dam....and rush to the bathroom, as I squeeze out a yeah I do and Thank you. I took a cat bath and got dress fast like the cops was coming for me. I rush out the door like I was on a mission, in my head I'm like I hope I don't get a ticket. Five minutes after being on i95 speeding my car start smoking from the hood out of no where. I thought the car was on fire. I'm like now I'm really going to be late. I pulled the car over to the side. I thought about driving to the next exit. I'm like E you bugging out the car already smoking. Finally I turn the car off, and pop the hood. I was looking for the fire. All I saw was a lot of smoke coming out from the hood. I even check under the car to see if anything was leaking. I'm like can the day get any worse. I called triple A to get the car towed to the mechanic.

Today was inventory at work, so I'm like whole boy, anxiety going through the roof. As a manager inventory is mandatory for you to be on-site for the area you oversea. All the big title guys with the suits are going to be walking around. I'm like I can only focus on the things that are in my control. Just breath be calm and relax things don't just happen they happen for a reason. Triple A finally came and I called a uber to work. As I step in to the office to really quick, I notice two coworkers having a side conversation. Everybody else was inside preparing for the inventory. I walk pass minding my business like hey Diana and Shawna. They nodded and smile. I didn't tell no one about the car situation. I always like to keep my personal business to myself. In my head I'm thinking like did Diana get in trouble today. She always seems to be upbeat in a good mood. Quiet to herself. Today she seems off, worried like she had a lot going on. Or may her numbers were off and that's what they're gossiping about.

Diana was a great worker on top of her game and a head of her class. She even made her coffee like a professional and never made a mess. Employee of the month kind of girl. All the guys were thirsty for Diana. She had a nice body and was pretty. This wasn't dirty Diana but clean Diana. She gained a little weight from when she first got hired. She also came to work in modest professional apparel. As I grab the door to leave, they stop me. Like E why you late? I went to answer as I studder lol they like we just messing with you. But on a real note,

They said E let me ask you something? They close the door and pulled me to the side.

And they said can they ask my advice from a man point of view I seem like I am honest man. And they feel they can trust me.

I'm like yeah, but first tell me what's going inside? Have the inventory company started counting area. Shawna like no you good the inventory company just got here 30 minutes ago and they're setting their systems up.

So, Shawna ask me why men cheat?

EDITED Excerpt:

I woke up to the sound of my girlfriend frantically saying, “Everette! Everette! Don’t you have to work today?” I rolled over and checked the time on my phone. *Oh damn!* I groaned to myself. I rushed to the bathroom, squeezing out, “Yeah, I do! And thank you!” to my girlfriend. I took a cat bath and got dressed so fast it was like the cops were coming for me. I rushed out of the door, like I was on a mission. Knowing I was about to speed on my way to work, I thought, *I hope I don’t get a ticket...*

Barely five minutes after being on I-95, I saw smoke beginning to roll out from under the hood, out of nowhere. I thought the car was on fire. *Now I’m really going to be late!* I thought. I briefly thought about trying to make it to the next exit, but I was like, *E, your car is bugging out already!* I pulled over to the side in the interstate, turned the car off, and popped the hood. I started looking for the fire, but all I saw was a lot of smoke. I even checked under the car to see if anything was leaking. Could this day get any worse? Feeling defeated, I called AAA to get my car towed to a mechanic.

I knew today was inventory at work, so my anxiety was going through the roof. Inventory is mandatory for managers to be on-site for the area they oversee. I just knew all the big-title guys with the suits were going to be walking around. I tried to breathe, thinking things like, *I can only focus on the things that are in my control. Just breathe, be calm, and relax. Things don’t just happen; they happen for a reason.*

Finally, AAA came, and I called an Uber to work. As I stepped into the office, I didn’t tell anyone about my car situation. I always liked to keep my personal business to myself. I noticed two co-workers having a side conversation as I set my things down. Everyone else was inside preparing for the inventory, but as I walked past the two ladies, I just minded my own business. “Hey, Diana. Hey, Shawna,” I said casually. They nodded and smiled at me, but Diana seemed a little down. In my head, I asked myself if Diana had gotten in trouble or something. She always seemed to be upbeat in a good mood. But now she seemed quiet, like she wanted to keep to herself. She looked worried and like she had a lot going on. *Maybe her numbers were off, and that’s what they’re gossiping about,* I thought.

Diana was a great worker. She was always on top of her game and head of her class. She even made her coffee like a professional and never made a mess. She was an employee-of-the-month kind of girl. All the guys were thirsty for Diana because she had a nice body and was pretty. *This wasn’t dirty Diana but clean Diana.* She had gained a little weight from when she had first been hired, but that hadn’t affected how good she looked. She also always came to work in modest and professional apparel.

I decided to let the two women continue talking, but as I grabbed the door to leave, they stopped me. “E, why you late?”

I went to answer, but as I stuttered, they just laughed. “We’re just messing with you!” I laughed in relief with them, but then they turned serious.

[Woman] said, “E, let me ask you something...” She closed the door to the office and got closer to me. “Can we ask your advice, from a man’s point-of-view? You seem like an honest man. We feel we can trust you.”

I looked at them curiously. “Yeah... But first, tell me what’s going on inside? Has the inventory company started counting yet?”

Shawna shook her head. “No, you are good. The inventory company just got here thirty minutes ago, and they’re setting their systems up.” I sighed in relief, then nodded for the ladies to ask their question. “So...” Shawna began. “Why do men cheat?”

I stuttered for a minute, caught off-guard.

Commented [GC1]: What does this mean?

Commented [GC2]: Which one of the girls asked this?