

## THE COURBET CURE

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By Aditi Brennan Kapil

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*A couple with wine, sitting at a table quietly, she is particularly spaced out. Suddenly she jumps up, patting herself down, something is missing, she looks under the table, behind the chair, panicking...*

**Sarah**

Shit! Shit! Oh shit!

**Ben**

Sarah!

**Sarah**

Oh shit!

**Ben**

Sarah! The baby's not here!

*She stops*

Hi.

**Sarah**

Oh shit.

**Ben**

Yeah.

**Sarah**

Ok. Ok. Mmm. Wine. Yummy.

**Ben**

Yeah.

*Pause*

Are you sure you should be...?

**Sarah**

YUMMY.

**Ben**

Right.

*Pause*

**Sarah**

Well, this is fun. It's so dark in here. It's dark right? Or are my eyes closed? Ben?

**Ben**

Eyes are open.

**Sarah**

Ow

**Ben**

What

**Sarah**

I think I hit my breasts, got my milk going

*She presses her nipples*

**Ben**

Oh, come on! We're in public here

**Sarah**

Oh yeah, I'm doing it on purpose

**Ben**

Well can you not grab yourself?

**Sarah**

That's how you stop it, you put pressure on the nipple

**Ben**

So go to the bathroom

*She crosses her arms. Silence.*

**Sarah**

Where's your phone?

**Ben**

Pocket

**Sarah**

How are you going to hear it? Put it on the table.

**Ben**

Why? I can hear it fine.

**Sarah**

I can't relax if I don't know your phone is working, just put it on the table

**Ben**

You can't relax, period

**Sarah**

You try to relax with leaky privates, engorged boobs and a husband who won't put his damn phone on the damn table!

**Ben**

What the hell are we doing here?

**Sarah**

Don't swear!

**Ben**

The baby's not here!

**Sarah**

Shit!

**Ben**

What are we doing here? Huh?

**Sarah**

We're on a damn date, it's been 2 months, the book said to nurture our relationship,  
WE'RE NURTURING

**Ben**

That's what we're doing?

**Sarah**

Yes! Phone please!

**Ben**

Fine.  
Hi Sarah.

**Sarah**

Hi Ben.

**Ben**

So this is a date?

**Sarah**

Yes.

**Ben**

So what happens at the end of the date?

**Sarah**

Oh for god's sake

**Ben**

No, I'm just asking, what are the parameters here? What are we going for? Romance? Shoptalk? A good drunk? What are we nurturing?

**Sarah**

No sex

**Ben**

Did I say sex?

**Sarah**

Yes Ben, yes you did. And no Ben, there will be no sex with my sewed up scarred frankenstein vagina, not until I'm good and ready, so change the damn subject.

**Ben**

It's been 2 months, it's not sewed up or scarred

**Sarah**

How the hell would you know?

**Ben**

Well, if you'd let me get a look

**Sarah**

AAAAAAAAAH!

**Ben**

Jesus! Ok, ok, change the subject.

*Silence*

**Sarah**

This place is nice.

**Ben**

Yes. Really great fucking décor.

**Sarah**

Don't swear

**Ben**

The baby's not here! We are surrounded by sexually mature adults, all of whom are staring at us now

**Sarah**

They'll get over it

**Ben**

Not if you don't stop poking at your breasts

**Sarah**

I'm not poking them. I'm checking them.

**Ben**

And I'm not thinking about sex. So what do you want to talk about?

**Sarah**

You don't have to be hostile about it.

**Ben**

I'm not hostile, I'm sleep-deprived.

**Sarah**

So am I

**Ben**

But the date was your idea, so find something to talk about

**Sarah**

Us. Just us.

**Ben**

When's the last time it was just us?

**Sarah**

Our honeymoon. This is good wine.

**Ben**

OK, our honeymoon. I'm still not thinking about sex.

**Sarah**

Remember that fight we had?

**Ben**

Your memories of our honeymoon are apparently very different from mine

**Sarah**

That's because all you ever think about is sex

**Ben**

Is that not better than hanging on to every fight we ever had?



**Sarah**

It's certainly less complex. No, but that wasn't my point. Remember where we made up?

**Ben**

At the museum.

**Sarah**

The Musee D'Orsay. Oh come on, that's romantic.

**Ben**

So's sex.

**Sarah**

That painting on the ground floor, that giant canvas of war in oil, reds and blacks, it was huge and mounted way high and we stood there and glared at it for like 10 minutes cause we were so pissed, but we couldn't have a proper blowout in front of all those French people

**Ben**

I remember. Great painting, who was that?

**Sarah**

No clue. And then I looked down and I saw it, Gustave Courbet's 'The Origin of the World'! And you looked down and that was it- fight over man, fight over!

**Ben**

You gotta give it to the French, they have a sense of humor.

**Sarah**

THE OIL OF WAR! And underneath it just this little nature tone canvas, incredibly detailed, every pubic hair lovingly drawn, origin of the world. You wouldn't even see it if you walked through the gallery too fast. Too damn funny! I love that thing! If they'd had a print I'd have bought it!

**Ben**

You know what I remember?

**Sarah**

The sex?

**Ben**

You flashing that guy in front of the Moulin Rouge who offered me a girl with you standing right there. "WHAT AM I??" Just ripped your shirt open and

**Sarah**

Oh shit, shhh, shit! I can't believe I did that! Our daughter never gets to do that.

**Ben**

Hell no!

**Sarah**

Oh my god, that was so long ago!

**Ben**

Yeah

*Giggles. They doze off. A snore. Suddenly she's up and patting herself down, he jumps up startled and starts searching too*

**Sarah**

Oh shit oh shit oh shit

**Ben**

Oh shit oh shit  
Wait! Sarah! Baby's not here!

**Sarah**

Oh shit. Oh right. Oh sorry.

**Ben**

No no, no...I..

**Sarah**

Aw fuck, I'm leaking...

**Ben**

Oh, ok, what do I do...?

*She notices everyone staring*

**Sarah**

Oh what? You want a better look? Never seen a lactating woman before? Well, let me take you on a little educational field trip- *(starts unbuttoning her shirt)* you know a lot of people don't realize that the milk doesn't just squirt from one central orifice like a hose, it sprays from lots of little openings all over the aureole, here let me...

**Ben**

Sarah! Shit, come on

**Sarah**

What? They're obviously curious!

**Ben**

Shush, let's get out of here...

**Sarah**

It's educational! I mean that's why you're looking, right?

**Ben**

We're leaving, very quickly, very right now...  
Sarah!

*She stops. She gives him a kiss.*

**Sarah**

Don't forget your phone.  
*They start to exit*  
I'm glad we went out tonight

**Ben**

Yeah, me too, 1/2 hour is about all we can handle right now

**Sarah**

Hey, we can handle anything! The world can't take us for more than 1/2 hour! Shit I'm really leaking

**Ben**

She's probably crying

**Sarah**

You think?

**Ben**

You're supermom, with super-sensory breasts

**Sarah**

I love you

**Ben**

Did you actually get drunk on 3 sips of wine?

**Sarah**

Yeah. That guy really wants to see my boobs.

*Ben grabs her, they exit laughing*

**End of Play**