

# having a bad day

*by* Jerry Ratch

My mom said, "Carol, why are you laughing?"

And I said, "I just saw my last boyfriend and his wife, who got married six months after we broke up, and it's funny. I mean, I just saw them. They're in town visiting from California."

And my mom said, "Carol, that's not the point. It's not funny. Your life is not substantiated yet, until you get married too."

I said, "But I was having a really bad day until I just saw them go strolling by the café where his girlfriend (sic) wife used to work. I mean, I broke up with him for a reason."

And my mom said, "And what was the reason?"

I said, "He was cheating on me with that slut! The ... the woman he's married to, and I feel like now I can move on with my life."

Silence. There was, like, total silence between us.

"It's funny," I said.

"Oh, Carol," said my mom, "come on, honey. You're not happy, you're just... laughing."

"Oh, Mom," I said, "it's not like I'm stalking him or anything."

