

I hope I don't get into trouble for this one ...

The Calendar

"Hi Bill. Have you heard about our new project?"

Bonnie had found me in my room, preparing a Math 30 lesson.

"No ... what now?" I was almost afraid to ask.

"Some of us on staff are going to pose for a calendar we're making. We hope to sell them for fifty dollars each, and make a whole bunch of money for the school!"

"Hey, that's a good idea! And, what, you want me to be in one of the pictures?"

"Uh, no, Bill. It's female only. One per month. We have a few ladies in the community who want to be in on it too."

"That's too bad. I would have ... wait a minute! It's not one of *those* calendars, is it?" The kind where people pose while doing some day-to-day activity, but ... not wearing any clothes.

"Yup! And it's not that bad. You won't actually see anything ... and all kinds of groups are doing it as a fundraising activity."

"But ... aren't you actually *naked* in the photographs?"

"Yeah, but no-one sees us except the photographer!"

I thought for two seconds. "Bonnie, I don't suppose ..."

"Don't even think about it! Darren and Dallas already asked. No, Jackie is going to take the pictures. She'll do a good job."

"Who is ..."

Bonnie had anticipated the question. "Mindy, Kate, Colleen, Tracy, Dawn and Kathleen are all going to be in it. Me too!"

"Uh ..."

"I'm going to be December. And this was all Colleen's idea, so she gets to be on the cover."

"When will you be doing the photos?"

“Jackie is going to visit everyone this weekend, and take the pictures. People will get to choose the activity they want to be doing. I’m going to be gardening.”

That made a picture in my head that I wasn’t sure should be there. So I asked instead, “When will the calendars be ready?”

“Jackie said she’ll have them done in about three weeks. Just in time for the fall craft and bake sale in the gym. It will be great ... we’ll make a ton of money!”

I was sure that was true. I planned to buy one. Maybe two.

Three weeks later the calendars arrived in three huge boxes. Bonnie was already opening them up. She was excited.

“Bonnie! How many calendars did you order?”

“Three thousand. Do you realize if we sell them all, we’ll make \$150,000?? Think about all the wonderful things we could do for the school with that kind of money!”

Bonnie pulled out a calendar. There was Colleen on the cover, baking cookies. She might have been wearing no clothes, or she could have been wearing a rather small bathing suit. You couldn’t tell. There were all these pans and boxes of cake mix in the way. And she was holding a pot.

“You see? They’re very tastefully done. Jackie did an incredible job!”

We flipped through several months. I noticed that Sandra and Ginger had volunteered too. Then we got to Mindy’s page. I laughed.

“She wanted to stand out in the herd of cows. Just wearing cowboy boots. It made an effective picture, don’t you think? Jeremy was behind Jackie, falling down laughing!”

It reminded me of that scene from ‘Never Cry Wolf’, the one where the guy is running naked with a herd of deer. “You can’t really see anything at all ...”

“That was the whole idea, Bill. Jackie was very careful to stand in just the right spot. It did sort of make the cows nervous, though.

We turned some more pages. Kathleen’s was very tastefully done. She was sitting behind a piano. The sheet music covered everything important.

And then we got to December. There indeed was Bonnie in her garden. Standing behind some branches, holding two watering cans, and with some rather tall raspberry bushes in front of her.

“Bonnie, those plants in front of you look a little strange ...”

“Yeah, I know. Jackie miscalculated on that one. She had to use Photoshop to make the raspberry plants taller.”

I looked at the watering cans. “Bonnie, is that ...” I looked closer.

“It’s a leaf. A little round leaf. I checked.”

“Oh, OK.” If she said so.

“So when do these go on sale?”

“This Friday in the gym, after school. We put up flyers all over the place.”

Friday afternoon I was in my classroom trying to show the grade ten class how to multiply polynomials. They weren’t having any of it. Especially with all the noise in the hallway.

Noise?

I looked out my door. There was a line-up to get into the gym that stretched all the way down the hall and out the front door. Oh, the craft sale ...

I also noticed that there were a lot of men in the line. And just about all of our Jr. High boys. There must be a lot of baked goods this year ...

And then I remembered. The calendars.

I stuck my head into the gym. I had to force my way past the crowd in the doorway. The gym was ... well, I didn’t think that many people had been in the gym before, ever. And they were all lined up in front of a table at the end. Bonnie and Mindy were there, selling calendars.

I couldn’t help myself. I had to go look.

Mindy was pulling the calendars from the box and selling them as fast as she could take them out. Bonnie was signing autographs on the December page. Apparently her gardening picture was quite popular.

“Bill ... it’s wonderful! We’ve made almost thirty thousand dollars so far, and we’ve only opened one box!”

The calendars were indeed selling well. This had been a good idea. Maybe now we could afford to expand the woodworking room!

I left Bonnie and Mindy to keep selling. We did indeed sell most of the calendars. Darren bought three. And there was one in every Jr. High boy's locker.

Maybe next year we'd do the men.