BOB

Do you think Crenshaw is mad at me?

BRENDA

Why would Crenshaw be mad at you, Bob?

BOB

I turned in today’s puzzle pretty late.

BRENDA

This meeting’s been set for a week. And I doubt Crenshaw would care. If it’s bugging you, you’ll have to take it up with the graphics team.

BOB

I’ll bake Sarah some nut-free brownies.

BRENDA

Whatever helps you sleep at night.

*(They enter the office and BRENDA closes the door behind them.)*

BRENDA

I think this might be a meeting about renewing the show for another season.

BOB

Really? That’s fantastic!

BRENDA

I couldn’t agree more. Can you guess why?

BOB

Because we’ll get to do the show for another season.

BRENDA

No. Because it means an opportunity to renegotiate.

BOB

My salary is fine.

BRENDA

So fine you can hardly see it.

BOB

It’s more than I ever made before *Word Nerd*.

BRENDA

Bob, you design crossword puzzles. You didn’t make anything before *Word Nerd*.

BOB

I think I’m compensated fairly for the work I do.

BRENDA

And what about my percentage? Is that also fair compensation?

*(BOB is silent.)*

BRENDA

We can use the offer from *Wheel* as a bargaining chip.

BOB

I have no interest in *Wheel*.

BRENDA

You don’t need to be interested. It’s called bluffing.

BOB

I’m no gambler, Brenda. If I offer to leave for *Wheel*, and Crenshaw would probably let me.

BRENDA

Would that really be so bad?

BOB

Yes, it would. *Wheel* is glorified hangman. The coward’s crossword.

BRENDA

Not *Wheel*, then. Something better. I’ve got this friend at CBS who says he wants you for this primetime slot they have opening up next season. If you’d just send him a puzzle—

BOB

I’m not sending anybody any puzzles. *Word Nerd* is my baby.

BRENDA

*Our* baby.

BOB

Right.

BRENDA

It’s our baby.

BOB

I know.

BRENDA

Back home, when we used to map out everything we were going to accomplish out in the world, did we draw the line at a syndicated game show? Is that what we meant when we promised each other we’d reach for the stars?

BOB

We were kids. We didn’t know anything.

BRENDA

Right. And now we know everything about the business and everyone in it. The stars are finally within reach, Bobby. All that’s left is grabbing them.