

WEB TRAP

Aggelos- Mum, can I have a glass of water?

Ismini- I am so much surprised you still need water! How long has it been since you last had something to eat son? This thing will be the death of you. Here you are....

Aggelos- Thanks mum but please stop nagging. I am perfectly ok. Close the door behind you.

Aggelos is a 20 year old computer programming student. He was one of the best students at school and managed to pass the national exams to enter the university with flying colours. His mother, a middle-aged housewife adores and admires him for his wit and ideas. But throughout the last year Aggelos has developed a strong addiction. Using his knowledge on computers as an excuse, he started spending long hours on discovering new aspects and developing strategies. And after all the excitement of work, he needed something to relax. So he started playing computer games. He liked the fact that he could communicate with people of his age from all over the world. At first it was fun and after a while he would feel sleepy and would stop. But after some time, gaming became so exciting that he could not even think of working. He simply felt that he had the right to entertainment, and everything else was unimportant. His mother, Ismini, started complaining that he did not spend enough time with her and then things became worse. In a matter of months Aggelos stopped going out and meeting old friend as he preferred his new Cyber friends. He became so absorbed that he lost interest in anything>family, friends, food, sleep... He rarely went out of his room, let alone the house.

Ismini- Shall I get you something to eat? A salad maybe, an apple, an orange? You need vitamins you know, and you need to get out in the sun, in the fresh air! It is not healthy to sit down on a chair in a dark room all day, and night. You don't even let me open the window to get some air. Have you even noticed that it is spring already and the weather is perfect? You look so skinny and pale, I worry about you.

Aggelos- Stop it mum, I am fine, everything is fine. Do not worry so much....

Ismini- Can you stop for five minutes and come talk with me please...

Aggelos- Ok, Ok I am coming but if you start complaining again I am off.

Ismini- There is something I have wanted to tell you for some days now but I did not have the chance.

Aggelos- What is it? Are you sick?

Ismini- No, I am fine. It s just that I want you to meet someone. A very nice family moved in the apartment on the second floor, just a month ago. Have you heard anything? No the earphones do the job, I know.... So they have a daughter, Marina, a beautiful girl, just around your age. Whenever I meet her she offers her help. She is so polite.... I thought it

would be nice to meet her, she is so open minded and thoughtful..... You know you should be going out and flirting and since you do not, I have to step in..... So when is a good time for me to invite her over for a cup of coffee?

Aggelos- Are you out of your mind? Absolutely not. I am perfectly capable of flirting and doing things my way. Do not dare to do something like that. If I want to find a girlfriend, I can do it myself. Stop interfering in my life, stop telling me what to do. I mean it! This conversation is over and the matter is settled! Understand? I do not want to ever hear a word about it again...

And off he went to his room again to resume his game.

The next day Ismini decides to go to the super market at two, the time she knows Marina comes back from acting school. She wants to be an actor and she studies at a private acting school. Ismini hopes to meet Marina and ask for her help. And she gets what she asks for, as she meets Marina at the entrance of their block of flats. She feels awkward in the beginning, but Marina;s amiable personality gives her the courage to open her heart and explain the scheme she has come up with.

Standing by the main entrance door, she explains her plan

Ismini- I would like you to help me with my son. You know he has a problem but he does not want to face it. He stays indoors all day long, playing computer games and refusing to live life as it should be. I am afraid that if I do not do something my son will be destroyed. I do not want to wait until it is too late.

Marina- I am sorry but I do not understand. I would like to help you but I do not know how

Ismini-Well, I have thought of a plan. You can sign in and play one of his favourite games, LOL, and try to become his friend. The name he uses for the game is Agg10. After you have won his trust I want you to convince him to meet in person. That way he will realize that people like to live real life as well, and hopefully he will grow to like real life more that virtual. I know what I am asking is too much but I am desperate..... And you can see it as a new role, I know you like acting.....My son is a very good young man, you will have no problems....please Marina, there is no one else I can turn to, you are my last hope...

Marina- Ok, I will think about it but no promises.

Ismini goes to the supermarket thinking that this is the last chance. It has to be successful.

When she goes back home carrying fruit and vegetables for her son she peaks at his bedroom. He is playing LOL. A faint smile is evident on her face.

Days go by and Ismini has stopped complaining. She is just being patient....

But after a month she starts being impatient. She does not know if Marina has made a move and she is nervous.

A week later she sees her son coming out of his room whistling. He is happy.

Aggelos- Mum, how about some coffee and a hug?

Ismini can not believe her ears. Is this her son?

Ismini- Of course my son. Here you are, sit down, let us have a chat.

Aggelos- ok, but I do not have much time. I think I will go out for a walk.

Ismini- I am so happy for you!!!! Of course you should go. Do you need me to bring you clean clothes?

Aggelos- Relax mum, I am only going for a walk, not to get married.

They both laugh and have an easy relaxed conversation for a while. Then Aggelos leaves, and Ismini can not help but wonder if this is Marina s doing. But she is too happy to spend more time thinking about it.

Days go by and Aggelos spends less and less time playing computer games and more time outdoors. Ismini has not seen Marina since the day they had that conversation, and life could not be happier.

One day Aggelos informs his mum that he is going to bring his friends over to watch a film.

Ismini- What do you mean friends? Not A friend?

Aggelos- No mum, friends, three people. We will order a pizza and have fun.

Ismini is very confused. What is going on? If Ismini has not interfered, then who? But she does not want to waste time thinking about it. It is the best thing that has happened to her life for the last few years.

Going to the supermarket, she meets Marina.

Ismini- Goodmorning my child, how are you? I have not seen you for a while!

Marina- Goodmorning, I am so happy to see you! Well I have been away for a while, you see my grandpa was sick and I had to go to my hometown to see him and I ended up staying there for two months. I am sorry that I have not been able to help you...

Ismini- Dear child don t be sorry. My problem has been solved. I do not know why, I do not know who, but my son is happy and active again. He spends most of his time at school with friends. He even invited friends over tonight. I am so content....

Traps are in our minds, most of the times we set them for ourselves. Strong characters overcome difficult situations with time and with the love of their family.

THE END