

THE IMPORTANCE OF NARRATIVE

by

Brandon M. Crose

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www.brandoncrose.com
brandon.crose@gmail.com

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SETTING — A home.

CHARACTERS — PARENTS 1 and 2 and BABY.

AT RISE — PARENTS 1 and 2 are trying to feed BABY while also getting ready for work.

PARENT 1

Can you take over for me? I'm running late.

PARENT 2

Yep, sure. How hard can this be?

PARENT 1

Just—slowly. Don't force feed him. Thanks.

PARENT 1 hurries out of the room.
PARENT 2 scoops some goop onto a plastic spoon.

PARENT 2

(making airplane sounds)

Frrrrmm... coming in for a landing. Permission to land.

(hesitates before BABY's mouth)

What's that? Roger—we'll take another pass.

(begins circling with the spoon)

Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. We do expect to land shortly, but air traffic control has asked us to delay for a bit while they let another plane ahead of us. We'll expect to land momentarily.

PARENT 2, still holding the first spoon aloft, loads goop onto a second spoon.

PARENT 2 (cont.)

(as second plane)

Logan, this is Delta 289, we read you and will proceed manual landing procedures now.

(as air traffic control)

Negative, Delta 289, negative! That was meant for Delta 285—do you read??

(as first plane)

Folks, thank you for your patience; we expect to OH MY GOD bank left bank left!

PARENT 2 enacts a dramatic near-collision while BABY looks on, amazed.

PARENT 2 (cont.)

(as second plane)

AHHHH Jesus Christ we're all going to die!!!

(as first plane)

OH GOD OH GOD OH—

PARENT 1

(popping back in)

What on earth—?!

PARENT 2

(as first plane)

Uh, everything... seems all right now?

(as air traffic control)

Yes, nothing wrong on our end.

PARENT 1

Feed him. That's all.

PARENT 2

It just— Narrative is important.

PARENT 1 gives a look and disappears again.

PARENT 2 (cont.)

(loading a third spoon)

Logan, this is Delta 285—what the hell is going on down there?

(as air traffic control)

All flights please be advised! We have a deadly supercell thunderstorm forming directly over the airfield. I repeat...!

END OF PLAY.