

CONGRATULATIONS GRANDPA: CYNTHIA SAPPRACONE

Congratulations, Grandpa!

My father has had his hopes set on having grandchildren from the moment I started dating. On my wedding day, his speech included a wish for my husband and I to have many children. And every time I called Dad to share with him some good news, he'd assume it was a pregnancy announcement. The feminist in me would protest light-heartedly. *Women have other good news to share than a baby on the way!*

When I finally was expecting, Dad was the first person I called. I hoped to get both him and my stepmother on the phone. When I asked if she was around, Dad said she was watching TV. With him living in the US and myself in Australia, the closest thing I'd get to sharing the news with him in person was to tell him over Skype. He declined the offer.

'You know how I feel about all this technology stuff!', he groaned.

I'd just have to tell him. 'So, Dad', I began, 'how do you feel about becoming a grandpa?'

To which he replied, 'You know how I feel about that. I'd be very happy'.

Looks like I was going to have to spell it out for him! 'Congratulations' I said, with an emphasis on 'Grandpa!'.

I was met with radio silence, and then a 'What?'

'That's great!' he exclaimed, 'This is wonderful news! I'll go get my wife!'

With my ear pressed against my phone, I heard him run to the living room. Then up a flight of stairs.

'She's just coming out of the shower', he whispered. 'Shh! Don't say anything!'

From listening to him, you'd think he was the one with the big secret! I laughed. I hadn't seen my father this excited in a while!

A few minutes later, my stepmom came to the phone. My husband and I announced our pregnancy again. She was as delighted as my dad, if not more so... She had just been promoted from grandma of fur babies to that of a human!

During the winter, I joke that I'm a hockey orphan. I'm lucky if I can sneak in a five-minute conversation with my Dad between matches on TV. But since the news of the baby, I hear from Dad every couple of days. He wasn't kidding when he said he wanted to become a grandpa!