



Strategic Tale 1.2

(On the strategic management process)

Dear Diary, I think I have a problem

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April 4

Until two or three months ago, my marriage was going well, but now I suspect my husband of cheating on me. I have a problem. During the last few weeks, he has come home later than usual, saying he's been held up by unscheduled meetings, and I've noticed his car reeks of a perfume I don't use. To make matters worse, today he's told me that a business trip has suddenly come up and he'll have to spend the night in Barcelona, so he won't be coming home tonight.

My sister has told me to stop imagining things, but if I want to salvage my marriage, I have to do something. Important: Start at the beginning. What's happening outside my marriage?

Anyone would say you should avoid 'playing the detective' like this, but I have decided to secretly check all my husband's profiles on social media. At first, in a good way, simply looking for matching likes or some inappropriate comment. Ultimately, if I have to, I'll do it the hard way, trying to find his password for each account or 'borrowing' his mobile. Isn't marriage all about sharing? Well, let's start sharing information.

Estimated research time: 2-3 days.

April 7

My husband is very smart. I don't doubt that if he has anything to hide, he'll be very good at covering his tracks. My detective work has not found anything, either because nothing is going on or because he's very cunning. But I'm still suspicious. Next task: See what's going on in our marriage. Isn't it fair to say that all that glitters is not gold?

Since he returned from Barcelona (if indeed he's been there), he has been quieter than usual. This evening, in the middle of supper, I asked him about it. He put it down to being absorbed in his work for the past few weeks. When I insisted, he also let it slip that, as I have also been very busy recently, we don't do much together. But he's never at home! I came straight out and asked bluntly: "Are you seeing another woman?"





He said I'm crazy and got up from the table and left! Things should be talked over, like 'mature' adults I say!

April 8

It's really awkward sharing a house without talking to the other 'mature' person, but I've spent the afternoon completing the first stage of my investigation.

Diagnosis:

- My marriage is under stress because we don't spend enough time together.
- There is a threat from outside that I hope does not involve another woman.
- After promising each other eternal love, we have shared six wonderful years, and a mortgage!

April 10

I have continued with my detective work and come up with several ways to solve this problem. First option: I take my revenge by paying him back in kind ('and Bob's your uncle'). Second option: force him to take a lie test. Third option: hire a private detective. The fourth option involves an *app* I've been told about that allows you to track another mobile phone, so I can spy on him. The fifth option: kick him out today and take him for every penny he's got. And the sixth option, the less drastic one, give him the opportunity to explain himself before making any decision in the heat of the moment. After evaluating each option and discarding the first four (either immoral or too expensive), I have decided to keep calm and carry on (there will be time for hysterics later), let's hear what he has to say.

Second stage: completed.

April 11

Today, it's time to act. Am I ready to know? The truth is that, as I thought a few days ago, far from wanting to end my marriage, I would love to save it, although I know that I could never forgive his infidelity.

April 12

My 'dear' ex-husband should start thinking about moving out. I already sensed that... Let's see if my sister can find me a good dating *app*.

Tale date: July 2019

More teaching resources at: www.querrasynavas.com/index_english.htm

