

TANIA. No, of course not.

FRANK. Because I feel I am the victim, here. You come and tell me I have to give you something I have thought of as mine...and then treat me like this?

TANIA. I'm sorry. I know this is very awkward. I know how much your garden means to you. I've been loath to bring it up.

FRANK. But you did.

PABLO. We brought it up because something you think is yours is actually...ours. And we need to be adults about this and resolve it.

FRANK. *(Pause.)* I don't know what to say.

PABLO. I know everybody is very sorry and uncomfortable about this. But the fact remains, if we are going to build a fence, it needs to outline the physical line of our actual property.

FRANK. I've worked so hard; the judges come this Sunday.

PABLO. I'm sorry. But the law clearly -

FRANK. STOP! BE QUIET! DO NOT SAY ANOTHER WORD!

PABLO. I didn't...mean to -

FRANK. WHAT DID I SAY, SON? We will talk later. Excuse me.

(Flustered, FRANK runs back to his house.)

TANIA. Frank, be careful!

(PABLO and TANIA are alone.)

I can't believe how you handled that!

PABLO. Me? Did you hear him? He's not my father. He told me to shut up.

TANIA. He said be quiet. And I would too! This is not a courtroom. They are our friendly neighbors.

PABLO. That's why I also wanted to be very, very clear.

TANIA. Oh you were clearly a jerk! You were also disrespectful.

PABLO. What?

Tania
Pablo

Start

TANIA. He is our elder. That garden means a lot to him.

PABLO. I know. But take it from me, when things are sensitive is exactly when clarity and reason need to prevail.

TANIA. But is it worth it? I mean, we bought the place assuming that our yard ended here and their flowerbed was theirs! We were grateful for that.

PABLO. But this is good news for us!

TANIA. This does not feel like good news.

PABLO. So what do you want to do?

TANIA. Forget what the contract says. Keep everything like this. Let's not be greedy! And be happy with that. We go and apologize to them and move on.

PABLO. Apologize? For pointing out they are stealing from us?

TANIA. Pablo, get out of your shark mentality. These are our neighbors.

PABLO. Fine!

TANIA. Fine! Good. So we go and apologize.

PABLO. And thank them for taking \$38,000 out of our pocket.

TANIA. What are you talking about?

PABLO. That stretch is eighty-one square feet. Which in this neighborhood is \$478 per square foot which is the equivalent of \$38,678. Today. And who knows how much more it will be worth in the future. You feel we can just give that away?

TANIA. That much? That's more than twice what my dad used to make.

PABLO. You want to forfeit part of the land that rightfully belongs to us? Give some old people we barely know something for nothing? And pay extra property taxes to boot?

TANIA. That doesn't feel right either.

PABLO. I know this is emotional, but we have to be smart about this.

TANIA. And kind...we have to be kind. It can't be just about the money.

PABLO. Listen, they are upset. It's natural. But they will just have to get over it. This competition comes every year. The wood fence we are buying will help us both in the long run. We need to carry on and right this wrong. They will adjust.

TANIA. How can you be sure?

PABLO. They are good and decent people, aren't they?

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