

LE LAUSTIC, 2000 (with apologies to Marie de France)

One of my supervisors at work started an internet romance with a guy she'd never seen. She's married, but it's not as though she was actually sleeping with her internet lover. They wrote to each other every day and she fell deeply in love with him. When she did a web search on his name, all the hits she came up with showed that he was a respected member of a major firm. For the first time in her life she was deeply happy with her relationship.

Then her husband started to suspect what was going on. Until then, I had thought he was a decent, mellow sort of guy. He really freaked out, though. He yelled at her, berated her for spending so much time online, and ripped their home modem right out of the wall. Then he threw it at her. It missed and smashed against the floor. After her husband stormed out, my supervisor just sat and cried for a long time, holding the smashed modem.

I told her flat out that I thought she should leave him after that. She didn't, though. She wrapped up the broken remains of her modem in a love letter explaining what had happened, and immediately FedExed it to the corporate office of the guy she was in love with.

Later I heard what he did with it. Apparently he's quite a patron of the arts, and he commissioned a sculptor to design a gorgeous glass sculpture that incorporates the old modem that she sent him. You can still see the sculpture on display in the lobby of his corporate headquarters in New York.

This story didn't stay secret for long; that's why I put it here on my website. Click on the icon below to see a picture of the sculpture.

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