

## Odd Job

My oldest son Bryan, not long out of college, applies for a summer job he sees advertised in the New York Times Want Ads. A job which involves children, background checks and overseas travel. He tells me about it. I picture white boy slave trade, complete with his disappearance. Oh, he says, it's a sports nanny job with royalty. Right.

Turns out he was right and he gets the job working for Prince Ernst and Princess Caroline of Monaco. He lives with the royal family in a hunting lodge outside Salzburg. He teaches the little royals "sport" during the day: tennis, soccer, swimming, while they practice their English. In the evening he eats with the family. While he is there, Princess Caroline has a new baby. Her father, Prince Rainier, arrives and Bryan sits next to him at the dinner table. Bryan wonders, do I know who the Prince is?

Aside from the daily sports nannying, there are adventures. Like the time paparazzi climbs over the wall and Bryan sees the security people destroy the camera, slap the photographer around and chase him away. Or when he was supervising the older children and their friends, who discover the joys—and sorrows—of the liquor cabinet. He came home with stories, lots of stories. Many about Ernst, his temper, his shenanigans, his affair with alcohol, lots of alcohol.

At Christmas a card arrives, a formal portrait of the royal couple with a few fond, hand written words for Bryan: Can you come next summer?

Lynda pisano

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