

MEGAN WILKINS enters carrying a briefcase and wearing a jacket. She is dressed like a consummate professional. She takes off her coat and hangs it in the closet. She moves to the kitchen, she stops at the table and puts a piece of a puzzle in its place. She takes out a jar of peanut butter and a spoon and begins to eat straight from the jar. She gets in her briefcase and takes out a pair of baby booties and inspects them with pride.

ROGER enters from the front door. Carrying a cardboard box and a briefcase.

MEGAN

(Quickly hides the booties.)

Hi, sweetheart. What are you doing home? I didn't expect you until day after tomorrow.

ROGER

The trip was cut short... How come an airline can pick you up at one little spec on the globe, fly you half way around the world to another spec on the globe, but they can't get your luggage across the runway to the right plane.

MEGAN

They lost your luggage again?

ROGER

They sent it to Ontario or some place.

(Pulls a date book from his briefcase.)

I spent a half an hour waiting while the airline looked for it. I knew I should have carried it on like everybody else.

(Looks at his watch and then makes notes in his daily planner.)

I could have been home an hour ago. This really pisses me off. They stole an hour from me. I can get back money, I can never get back that time.

MEGAN

What if we just set all the clocks back an hour?

ROGER

Is this funny to you?

(Begins looking through mail.)

MEGAN

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said anything.

ROGER

No, I'm sorry. I'm on edge.

(Looking through the mail.)

Bills, bills, bills, is that all we ever get around here are bills?

MEGAN

We get junk mail.

ROGER

They're the same thing.

MEGAN

Is something the matter?

ROGER

This is life, there's always something the matter. Look here's one addressed to resident. I wonder who would get this if they delivered it to Leavenworth prison.

MEGAN

There's something more than just life's little pitfalls. There's something bothering you. What is it?

ROGER

What makes you so perceptive?

MEGAN

I happen to be very sensitive to other people's feelings.

ROGER

(Points to the box.)

See that box?

MEGAN

Of course.

ROGER

It's all the stuff from my office.-- Get the picture?

MEGAN

Oh, my god! You lost your job.

ROGER

You are sensitive. You could be a seismograph.

MEGAN

Roger, what happened?

ROGER

The government didn't renew our grant.

MEGAN

What?

ROGER

They didn't renew the grant. The university had to cut the program. They laid off the whole staff, including me. That's why my trip was cut short.

MEGAN

Why would they cut off your grant?

ROGER

New government, new priorities. I guess saving the bald eagle from extinction takes a back seat to new stain proof carpet in the pentagon.

MEGAN

I don't believe it.

ROGER

Well, it'll hit home when we're short one paycheck...Thank god you're the real bread winner in the family...God Megan, I've never been fired from a job before.

(Sits on the couch in defeat.)

MEGAN

Roger, you weren't fired. You were laid off.

ROGER

(Sarcastic)

Now, there's some consolation...Megan, what am I gonna do?

MEGAN

This isn't the end of the world

ROGER

No, but you can sure see it from here. Do you know what's really sad?

MEGAN

Casablanca.

ROGER

That they cut the project. We were working to save an endangered species. It was a worth while project and they cut it...The world is a little bit worse off today then it was yesterday...Do you remember when I first got that job?

MEGAN

You were just out of graduate school.

ROGER

I was 27. Do you know how many people get the chance to head a project like that when they're 27?

MEGAN

Only boy geniuses.

ROGER

You know my father tried to get me to major in finance, but my mother said I should do something I enjoy, something worth while. Just think, if I'd listened to my father I could be down on Wall Street screwing old men out of their pensions.

MEGAN

And you'd hate it.

ROGER

It's those damn politicians, that's who it is. They're probably using my grant money to put condom machines in submarines. They think they run the country.

MEGAN

They do.

ROGER

Whose side are you on here?

MEGAN

I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said anything.

ROGER

Why do you have to fight your way through life? You fight your way through school, you fight your way through relationships, and you fight your way though the working world. Sometimes I just want to call it quits and give up.

MEGAN

You're not a quitter.

ROGER

I could learn.

MEGAN

You know what they say. "Anything worth having is worth fighting for".

ROGER

That's why it's so easy getting tickets to a Yankees game.

MEGAN

Roger, you'll find another job.

ROGER

Megan, YOU could find another job, you're an accountant. I'm an ornithologist, I study birds for a living. Who's going to hire me, Colonel Sanders? Five years of my life reduced to a few nick knacks in a cardboard box.

MEGAN

Don't belittle yourself. You've done a lot in five years.

ROGER

Sure I have, and look what I've got to show for it.

(Opens box and pulls out shoe polish)

ROGER (continued)

One shoe shine kit.

(Pulls out a rolledex.)

One rolledex.

(Pulls out a brand new shirt, still in the package, and a tie to match.)

One spare shirt and tie. You never know when you might drip catsup.

(Pulls out a book.)

And one autographed copy of "The Art of Being Organized". I don't even have interesting memorabilia. Most people have those funny little statues with clever little sayings at the bottom that match the owners personality, or a paper weight from Yosemite, but me, I've got a rolledex and spare clothing.

MEGAN

Roger, don't give up before you even start.

ROGER

I'm not giving up. I'm being realistic.

MEGAN

I'm just afraid you'll get caught up in this languid mood.

ROGER

Don't panic, I've only been depressed for six hours. You have to be depressed for two days before you call in a shrink.

MEGAN

I know you Roger, you tend to put a lot of emphasis on planning, and when things don't quite go the way you planned, you have a hard time adjusting.

ROGER

(Opens his date book.)

I adjust, you want to see me adjust. Watch me adjust. Lunch on Thursday with Brain Coleman, cancelled.

(Starts scratching out things.)

I didn't want to go anyway, he always forgets his wallet... Oh, and my trip to Washington,

(Scratches out)

Cancelled. Do you still want me to cook dinner on Monday, Wednesday and Friday?

MEGAN

Roger, please.

ROGER

I'll take that as a yes... Shall we keep sex on Tuesday?

MEGAN

Roger, don't do this.

ROGER

This whole day is clear.

(Tears out a page)

What am I saying this whole week is clear.

(Tears out several pages.)

In fact I don't even need this damn book. I don't have anything to keep track of.

(Throws the book on the floor
and kicks it across the room.)

And I don't need this anymore.

(Grabs the rolledex and throws
it in the trash in the kitchen.)

See how well I adjust. And you were worried I'd fall apart.

MEGAN

Oh, Roger.

ROGER

I'm falling apart aren't I?

(Collapses in a chair.)

So what's it like being married to a failure?

MEGAN

(Moves and hugs his neck.)

You're not a failure.

ROGER

How did you and I get together in the first place. We sure don't see things the same way.

MEGAN

You're a smart hard working man and I say you're a success.

ROGER

It's easy to have a positive attitude when you've got a job. If I had a job I'd have a good attitude. Oh, god, Megan, what am I gonna do? I loved that job.

MEGAN

I know you did.

ROGER

I really felt like I was contributing something to the world. I was preserving something for the future. There aren't that many jobs out there like that.

MEGAN

You contribute to my world.

ROGER

Just don't fire me.

MEGAN

I can't, we have a contract...I know, let's go out to dinner.

ROGER

I wouldn't be good company.

MEGAN

I'll order oysters. Whatta ya say?

ROGER

We can't afford it.

MEGAN

I'm your accountant, I can juggle your bank account.

ROGER

I wanted to get in a couple of miles before the criminal element takes over the streets. Let's see how I feel when I get back..

MEGAN

You could trade your evening run for a little personal passion.

ROGER

I need to think things through and I think better when I'm vertical.

MEGAN

So we'll do it standing up.

ROGER

I'm just not up to it tonight.

MEGAN

Is there anything I can do?

ROGER

If my suitcase shows up, let me know. My good running shoes are in it.
(ROGER Exits)