

the beginning of

**BRIDE AND GLOOM** (from **ROMANTIC FOOLS**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

(**ROMANTIC FOOLS**, a comic revue for one man and one woman, is published and licensed by Playscripts, Inc. [www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com))

(**BRIDE AND GLOOM** is also in Playscripts' anthology **NOTHING SERIOUS.**)

A small room in a banquet hall. The woman sits in her bridal gown. She looks petrified.

MAN  
Lori?... Lori?

WOMAN  
I'm not ready.

MAN  
Lori!

WOMAN  
Five more minutes!

MAN  
You said that five minutes ago.

WOMAN  
Five more minutes!

MAN  
You said that ten minutes ago.

WOMAN  
Five more minutes!

MAN  
You said that fifteen minutes ago.

WOMAN  
Well, when you come back next time,  
you shouldn't be surprised by my answer!

MAN  
I'm coming in.

WOMAN

You can't! It's bad luck!

MAN

So is keeping 134 wedding guests waiting.

The man tries to open the door. The woman tries to keep the door shut.

WOMAN

Go away.

MAN

Lori.

WOMAN

I said, go away!

MAN

Let me in!

The man forces his way inside.

WOMAN

Ouch!

MAN

You okay?

WOMAN

I broke a nail!... We'll have to call off the wedding.

MAN

(sweet, and perhaps a bit patronizing)  
Are you having some pre-marital jitters?

WOMAN

God, I hate you.

MAN

What's the problem?

WOMAN

I need time to think, that's all.

MAN

Our guests are waiting.

WOMAN

So they can wait a little longer.

MAN

They've already waited a little longer.

WOMAN

Then they can wait even long—

MAN

Lori, the ice swan has become a duckling.  
It's time to get married.

WOMAN

I'm not ready.

MAN

I've told the organist to play "Here Comes  
The Bride" in five minutes.

WOMAN

Well, I hope you and the organist  
are very happy together.

MAN

Lori, please. What's the problem?

WOMAN

The problem is... the problem is... I love you.

MAN

Trust me. After a few years of marriage,  
you'll outgrow it.

WOMAN

And what if I don't?

MAN

I love you, too.

WOMAN

Well, I refuse to marry anyone with  
such rotten taste in women.

MAN

Lori, what's going on?

WOMAN

Andrew, did, did you see my family out there?

MAN

Yeah. So?

WOMAN

Tell me who's here.

MAN

Pretty much everyone.

WOMAN

List them.

MAN

Well, there's your mom and your stepdad.  
And your dad and your stepmom.  
And your sister and her husband.

WOMAN

Second husband.

MAN

Your older brother and his wife.

WOMAN

Third wife.

MAN

Your younger brother and his fiancée,  
who will be his *first* wife.

WOMAN

What number fiancée is she?

MAN

Fourth.

WOMAN

He's the precocious one of the family.  
He gets divorced *before* he gets married.

MAN

She seems very nice.

WOMAN

More or less nice than the first  
three fiancées?

MAN

I don't –

WOMAN

Do you see a pattern here?!

MAN

That's them, Lori. Not you.

WOMAN

How do we know? Maybe I have an anti-marriage gene which doesn't get triggered until I say "I Do".

MAN

I doubt it.

WOMAN

I love you, Andrew. I think you're magnificent. And smart, and sweet, and, and, and, and – I don't want to divorce you!

MAN

Me, neither.

WOMAN

Well, the only way to insure that is to not get married!

MAN

Lori, we won't get divorced.

WOMAN

How can you be so sure?

MAN

Because after living with you for the past year, and creating a home and planning a wedding, I love you more than ever.

WOMAN

You're just nuts, you know that?