

the beginning of

**POWER IS THE GREATEST APHRODIAC  
OF THEM ALL** (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))

We hear the sounds of the man and woman grunting and groaning.  
Lights up on the man and the woman seated at a table, arm-wrestling.

MAN

God, you're good.

WOMAN

So are you.

MAN

I've never known anyone I feel so compatible with.

WOMAN

I've never felt happiness such as this.

MAN

I'm so lucky.

WOMAN

I'm so grateful.

MAN

*This* is living.

WOMAN

Does it ever bother you that you peaked sexually at nineteen and I still won't for several years?

The woman begins to win.

MAN

Probably not as much as the place inside of you that still believes you're going to go to hell for allowing yourself so much pleasure.

The man begins to win.

WOMAN

Do you know that the guy across  
the street makes ten thousand dollars  
more a year than you do?

The woman starts to win.

MAN

You look beautiful tonight.

WOMAN

(relaxing)

I do?

The man starts to win.

WOMAN (cont'd)

I'll always love you. No matter  
how bald you get.

She starts to win.

MAN

That reminds me. Do you know  
who hid the bathroom scale?

He takes over.

WOMAN

I think I saw it hidden in the closet  
behind your stash of *Playboys*.

She takes over.

MAN

You feel threatened that I enjoy  
pictures of naked women?

He takes over.

WOMAN

You feel threatened by women  
who come in three dimensions?

She matches him.

MAN

That's it. Let loose.

WOMAN  
(passionately)

I am.

MAN  
Give me everything you've got.

WOMAN  
I am.

MAN  
Pour it out.

WOMAN  
Oh, yeah.

MAN  
And don't get self-conscious about  
all those sounds you make.

She weakens.

WOMAN  
Remember how I once told you  
length isn't important?

MAN  
Yeah.

WOMAN  
I meant it.

MAN  
I know.

WOMAN  
*Width* is important.

He weakens.

MAN  
Remember how I once told you  
that breast size isn't important?

WOMAN  
(thinks, then:)  
No.

She weakens for a moment and then pushes back. A beat.

MAN

You're great tonight.

WOMAN

You, too.

MAN

You've never been better.

WOMAN

Thanks.

MAN

I think you're the best I've ever had –  
in this state.

WOMAN

(pressing with all her might)

Who?!

MAN

It's not important.

WOMAN

*Who?!*

MAN

I didn't respect her like I respect you...  
I didn't like her as much... I didn't love her...

She relaxes a little.

MAN (cont'd)

It takes more to build a relationship than  
the fact that she was a volcano in bed.

WOMAN

(really mad now)

If that's what you want, why don't  
you screw Mount Vesuvius?

A beat. They're evenly matched.

MAN

You know, I hear some couples  
have relationships based on  
cooperation and mutual respect.

WOMAN

(after a quick thought)

Perverts.

MAN

Maybe it isn't good the way we always  
act with each other.

WOMAN

That's who we are.

MAN

We can change.

WOMAN

Why?

MAN

Because I don't think this is healthy.  
Let's change.

WOMAN

How?

MAN

We just do.

WOMAN

How?

MAN

We just decide to change.

WOMAN

Then what?

MAN

Then we agree to stop this exhausting,  
hostile game.

WOMAN

You're up to something.

MAN

I'm not; I swear... You want to stop?

WOMAN

*How?*

MAN

I'll count to three. When I reach three,  
we'll both just stop. Agreed?

WOMAN

(after much thought)

Agreed.

MAN

One... Two... Three.

They both press harder than they ever have before.