

the beginning of

THE SHEEP, or MUCH ADO ABOUT MUTTON (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)

The living room of a middle-class home. As the play begins, the man enters from outside. He carries a suitcase and attaché case.

MAN

Hi, honey! I'm back!

The woman enters from another room. She's consumed with rage.

WOMAN

You bastard! I trusted you.
I believed in you. I loved you.

MAN

Hi, darling.

WOMAN

I could kill you.

MAN

You seem upset.

WOMAN

I know about your affair.

MAN

What affair?

WOMAN

I know about *her*.

MAN

I haven't touched another woman since I met you.

WOMAN

Don't give me that. The last time I took the clothes out of the hamper to do laundry, I looked at your blue silk shirt, the shirt I gave you for Christmas, and, and the collar, the collar had been nibbled by teeth – sheep teeth.

MAN

I I I um um um um I um I I
I don't know what you're talking about.

WOMAN

Then perhaps you can explain
these phone messages.

The woman goes to the phone answering machine. We hear:

PHONE ANSWERING MACHINE

Tuesday, 4, 51, p.m....

(a sheep:)

Baaaaaaaaaaaa...

Tuesday, 8, 13, p.m....

(an angry and curt sheep:)

Baa! (Click!)...

Wednesday, 9, 29, p.m....

(a crying sheep:)

Baaaaaaaa, wahhhhhhhhhhhhh

The woman stops the machine.

WOMAN

Well?

MAN

That bitch. I told her never to call here.

WOMAN

How dare you!

MAN

We're just friends, honey, I swear.

WOMAN

Don't give me that. After I pulled out your
blue shirt, I pulled out a pair of your boxers.
They were covered with wool – on the inside.

MAN

Uhhhhhh

WOMAN

You've had carnal relations with a sheep?!

MAN

I used a condom.

WOMAN

You screwed a sheep.

MAN

You make it sound so sleazy.

WOMAN

Oh, I suppose you and she – if it was a she.

MAN

Of course it was a she! What kind of guy do you think I am?

WOMAN

Sorry. I'm sure you and this lamb –

MAN

Sheep. Not lamb, sheep. We were two consenting adults.

WOMAN

Consenting?

MAN

Oh, she wanted me, and she let me know it.

WOMAN

Which of us is a better kisser?

MAN

Umm, she has this long tongue –

WOMAN

I don't want to hear it.

MAN

She makes this adorable little sound when she climaxes.

WOMAN

Don't.

MAN

It's like "uh, uh, uh, uhhhh, baaaaaaaaaaaa".

WOMAN

You bastard! I forgave you when I saw you making out with our neighbor's golden retriever.

MAN

Dogs like to lick. It was nothing.

WOMAN

I caught you French kissing my cousin's Siamese cat.

MAN

You're exaggerating.

WOMAN

You coughed up a furball!

MAN

You wouldn't be so harsh if you knew the whole story.

WOMAN

There's more?

MAN

I was confused. She had these piercing big round eyes. We communicated on a very deep level.

WOMAN

And we're going to communicate through lawyers.

MAN

You don't understand! She started getting kinkier and kinkier. One day she insisted I dress up as Mary from "Mary had a little lamb". One time she put on claws, fur, and a fake snout, so she could be a sheep in wolf's clothing. And then, and then she left me.

WOMAN

For another man or another sheep?

MAN

It was... it was... it was for a goat.

WOMAN

How sad.

MAN

A female goat.

WOMAN

How very sad.

MAN

I thought we had something special,
something transcendent, and then
I was dumped for a lesbian goat.

WOMAN

Poor boy.

MAN

I tried to win her back. I brought her
flowers. She ate them. I rubbed myself
with lanolin; nothing worked. She said
I was too conservative for her. I said
I wasn't. She said prove it. I said how.
She said do it with me and the goat.

WOMAN

And did you?

MAN

No!... I just watched.

WOMAN

You watched a sheep and a goat.

MAN

And a cow.

WOMAN

A ménage a trois.

MAN

And a goose.

WOMAN

A ménage a quatre.

MAN

And two pigs.

WOMAN

A ménage a menagerie.

MAN

Yes.

WOMAN

That must've been some turn-on.

MAN

No, it was awful! I thought what
she and I had was magical, I, I, I...
(breaking down)

I loved her.

WOMAN

Buddy, you're in deep sheep.

MAN

Look, I know I did a horrible thing,
but it was the most emotionally fulfilling
horrible thing I've ever done.