

the beginning of

THE STEPFORD GUY (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 nice home. The woman is on the phone.

WOMAN

You're right, you're right, but I'm not happy...
Of course, he's perfect. Ever since I moved
to Stepford, every man I've met is perfect.
And he's the most perfect... It's just, it's just,
he's so fucking flawless. I can't stand it
anymore... You're right, you're right, I'll
talk to him... Thanks, it's nice to have
your support, and, and I think you're
really a wonderful telemarketer.

The woman hangs up the phone and sighs, as the man enters.
He carries a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

MAN

Hi, Lori, I'm home. These are for you.

WOMAN

What's the occasion?

MAN

None.

WOMAN

I should've guessed.

MAN

If it's okay with you, I'm going to go right
into the kitchen and start making dinner.

WOMAN

Would you like me to help?

MAN

You relax. I'm sure you've had a hard day.

WOMAN

Ira, I bet you've had –

MAN

Sure I work sixty hours a week to support you in a lifestyle that's 22% greater than you're accustomed to, but I know you must be exhausted, basking all day in your own magnificence.

WOMAN

I am a little stressed.

MAN

Then let me cook. Besides, I found a new dessert recipe I think you'll love: It tastes like chocolate mousse, but it's made from whipped air.

WOMAN

Sounds intriguing.

MAN

It tastes great, and it gives you all the nitrogen and oxygen you need.

WOMAN

Um, honey –

MAN

Why don't you relax. I'll set the table, make dinner, do a couple loads of laundry – one darks, one lights – and after dinner, I will make love to you,

(like a tape slowing down:)

very, very, very slowly.

(normal voice:)

So how many orgasms would you like tonight – the usual four to six?

WOMAN

I, I, I don't think I'm in a sexy mood tonight.

MAN

No big deal. It's only sex. I'd be just as happy cuddling on the couch with you. I'm sure there's a great movie on Lifetime.

WOMAN

Honey, I, I, I think we need to have a conversation.

MAN

Okay. You talk; I'll empathize.

WOMAN

I, I – I think we have a problem.

MAN

Ohhh. Is it about that night when I was in such a hurry to make ravenous love to you that I shaved with an electric razor instead of a double-bladed one?

WOMAN

No.

MAN

When I fondled your breasts last night, did I focus on the nipples too quickly instead of appreciating the entire circumference?

WOMAN

It's not about sex.

MAN

Oh, I know what it is. When I got dressed this morning and I tiptoed around as not to awaken you, when I put my dirty clothes into the hamper, I think I heard it made a slight
(making a quiet sound:)
thump.

WOMAN

You didn't wake me.

MAN

I didn't screw the cap back on the toothpaste tightly enough?

WOMAN

It's fine. You do everything fine, or better.

MAN

Then what could – Are you upset I threw out the remote?

WOMAN

Honey –

MAN

(distraught)

Oh, no. I knew this would happen someday.
You finally realized... you're too good for me.

WOMAN

That's not it, Ira. The prob—

MAN

(overlapping)

Then what is it – oh, I interrupted you. I'm sorry.

WOMAN

(erupting)

This relationship is sick!

MAN

Honey, do you need a hug?

WOMAN

(getting increasingly upset)

No! Look, Ira, I, I think you're wonderful,
but, but you know I talk to my girlfriends
in other cities, and when they talk about
their husbands and their marriages,
all of them – every single one – they
do something we've never done once.

MAN

What?

WOMAN

They fight.

MAN

But I'm completely satisfied in our marriage.

WOMAN

Well, get over it.

MAN

I don't under—

WOMAN

It's not normal to be completely satisfied.
Human beings get upset; they fight.

MAN

They do?

WOMAN

All the time.

MAN

Well then, darling, I – I'm not sure how good I'll be, but if you really want to fight, I'll fight.

WOMAN

Thanks.

MAN

What do you want to fight about?

The woman thinks and thinks. Finally:

WOMAN

You start.

MAN

Okay. Let's see... I cherish the day I met you, and I thank God you've allowed me into your life.

WOMAN

Maybe I should start.

MAN

Did I do something wrong?

WOMAN

You're supposed to start a fight with a complaint, you know, something that makes you upset.

MAN

Ohhhh... Okay, I've got one.

WOMAN

Give it to me.

MAN

Sometimes when I'm driving and my mind wanders, I think about how if you ever dumped me, I'd never find another woman who could compare to you, and I get really upset.

WOMAN

I'll start.

MAN

Okay. And when you're done, I'll apologize.

WOMAN

Don't you dare!