

# BARELY HEIRS

A COMEDY IN TWO ACTS

By David Lassig

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**BARELY HEIRS**

**By David Lassig**

**SYNOPSIS:** This is the story of Jane, who stands to inherit a very sizable fortune from her beloved uncle's estate upon the half-year anniversary of her marriage. All Jane needs to do to collect her inheritance is get married and wait six months - so she has. That was six months ago. Now she just has to sit back and wait for her uncle's lawyer to come over with the documents and she and her husband, Tom, will live happily ever after. That is, if she were actually married. The fact that Jane's marriage is fake might have been a problem if her friend Tom hadn't agreed to pretend to be her spouse for the afternoon. Everything is set to go off without a hitch, and by supertime, Jane should be rich. That is IF Tom shows up on time, Jane can get rid of Tom's real wife Claire, the pool boy, and the bothersome police officer who keep stopping by unannounced. Yes, the whole plan should still work out as long as Jane keeps these people, along with the interior decorator, the nurse, and her ex-boyfriend, away from her mother. Did I mention that Jane's mother has stopped by? As it stands right now, I'm afraid Jane and Tom are just *Barely Heirs*.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(4 MEN, 3 WOMEN)*

- JANE (f).....A cunning woman in her thirties/forties.  
*( lines)*
- CLAIRE (f).....A cute and naïve woman in her  
thirties/forties. *( lines)*
- PAUL (m).....A hopeless romantic in his  
thirties/forties. *( lines)*
- WILLIAM (m).....An ordinary looking lawyer in his  
fifties/sixties. *( lines)*

TOM (m).....A likeable man in his thirties/forties. (  
*lines*)

RICHARD (m).....A police officer in his forties/fifties. (  
*lines*)

BETTY (f).....A flamboyant woman in her  
fifties/sixties. (*lines*)

### PROPERTIES

- Cell phone (Jane)
- Plate of cookies (Jane)
- Engagement ring (Paul)
- Bag of chips or other snack (Claire)
- Briefcase (William)
- Suitcase (Paul)
- Sponge ball cut in half (Tom)
- Shoe (Claire)
- Business cards (William)
- Tray with coffee pot and coffee cups (Jane)
- Suitcases (Betty)
- Camera (Betty)
- Magazines (Paul)
- Books (Paul)

### SETTING

The action of the play - which is continuous - takes place in the home of Jane during a bright sunny day. It is a middle-class home. The décor is tastefully modern.

BARELY HEIRS

*Barely Heirs* was first produced at the Harwood Prairie Playhouse in West Fargo, North Dakota on March 12, 2010 with the following cast and crew:

JANE.....Shanara Lassig  
CLAIRE.....Amanda Eide  
PAUL.....Peter Foss  
WILLIAM.....Jeffrey Rondeau  
TOM.....David Lassig  
RICHARD.....Charles Newman  
BETTY.....Linda Hinrichs

Director.....Troy Brewster  
Set Designer.....Troy Brewster, David Lassig  
Technical Director.....David Lassig  
Lighting and Sound Design.....Michael Sunram  
Stage Manager.....Dori Reich

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*Dedicated to Grandma Clarabelle, who's guiding my pen from above and watching over me with a huge smile on her face; Grandpa Edward, who taught me to live life for the moment and never give up on my dreams; and Shanara, who brought the role of Jane to life and inspired the writing of **Barely Heirs.***

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ACT ONE

**AT RISE:**

*The curtain rises on an empty stage. It is the living room of a modern, middle class home. Upper center stage is an entrance door which may be on an optional landing. Stage left are two doors, of which the DSL door is a swinging door leading to a kitchen and USL door leads to a dining room. There are three doors stage right, of which the doors DSR and USR lead to bedrooms. The CSR door leads to a bathroom. There are a set of stairs USR which lead to the second floor. Only a few stairs are visible to the audience. The set of stairs could also be replaced with a hallway. At minimum, the living room furniture consists of a sofa, chair and coffee table. JANE enters from the kitchen door holding a cell phone to her ear.*

**JANE:** Where can he be? Pick up the phone. Tom, this is Jane, where are you? You know today is the day. If you don't get here shortly, you're going to blow the whole thing. Call me back as soon as you get this. *(JANE hangs up the phone. Doorbell rings.)* Now, who can that be? *(JANE goes to answer door and in walks CLAIRE.)*

**CLAIRE:** Hello, Jane.

**JANE:** What are you doing here?

**CLAIRE:** That's no way to greet your best friend.

**JANE:** I'm sorry, Claire. I don't mean to be rude, it's just that today is not a good day.

**CLAIRE:** Why not?

**JANE:** I've got some important business to deal with.

**CLAIRE:** What's that?

**JANE:** It doesn't matter. Anyway, it's nice to see you. *(Pushes CLAIRE to the door.)*

**CLAIRE:** It's good to see you too. *(Turns back into room.)* I've got some great news for you.

**JANE:** Now?

**CLAIRE:** Of course now.

**JANE:** Couldn't it wait?

**CLAIRE:** No, it can't wait. It's very exciting, I haven't even told Tom yet.

**JANE:** Well, don't you think you ought to run along and tell him then?

**CLAIRE:** What's the matter with you?

**JANE:** Nothing, there's nothing the matter. *(Just then JANE's phone rings.)* Excuse me a moment, I need to take this. *(JANE answers phone.)* Hello. Yes, this is Jane. Oh, hello William. It's good to hear from you. How long has it been? I know, I haven't seen you since the reading of the will. Today? Of course, I remember today is the day. Yes, I've got the paperwork ready. What time did you say you would be here? Right. Of course. Yes, I'll sign your papers as soon as you make sure everything is in order. My husband? Oh, right. Yes, my husband will be here to sign the papers as well. OK, we'll see you in a bit. *(Hangs up phone.)* Now what was that news you had to tell me?

**CLAIRE:** Just a minute. Who were you talking to on the phone?

**JANE:** Oh, that was no one.

**CLAIRE:** It didn't sound like no one to me.

**JANE:** Well, it actually was a little someone.

**CLAIRE:** Who was it?

**JANE:** That was William.

**CLAIRE:** William who?

**JANE:** William, my uncle's lawyer.

**CLAIRE:** Which uncle would that be?

**JANE:** My uncle Bill, who passed away just over nine months ago. It was all so sudden. I didn't even get to say goodbye or attend the funeral. My mother called me one day and said he was gone and the next day they buried him.

**CLAIRE:** What did he want?

**JANE:** Nothing, he's dead.

**CLAIRE:** Not your uncle, your uncle's lawyer.

**JANE:** Oh right. He didn't want anything.

**CLAIRE:** But didn't he say he was coming here?

**JANE:** Yes, he did.

**CLAIRE:** And didn't I hear you mention something about your husband?

**JANE:** Did you?

**CLAIRE:** Yes, you said your husband will be here as well.

**JANE:** So I did. Give me a minute, I need to make one quick phone call. (*JANE dials cell phone.*) Damn it, it went right to voicemail. Hi, it's Jane again. Where are you? The moment of truth has arrived. You need to get here immediately. Please, call me back. Now, where were we?

**CLAIRE:** I think we were at the part of you saying your husband will be here as well.

**JANE:** Oh, right.

**CLAIRE:** Well?

**JANE:** Well, what?

**CLAIRE:** Why did you say your husband will be here as well?

**JANE:** Because he will be. (*Exits to kitchen.*)

**CLAIRE:** But you don't have a husband! (*Pause.*) Do you?

**JANE:** Not really. (*Enters from kitchen with plate of cookies and sets them on coffee table. CLAIRE will eat the cookies during the following scene.*)

**CLAIRE:** What do you mean not really?

**JANE:** I mean not a real husband.

**CLAIRE:** Oh, good. (*Laughs.*) You scared me for a minute. I mean, I am your best friend. I hope you would tell me if you have a husband.

**JANE:** Funny you should say that.

**CLAIRE:** Now, what kind of husband do you have?

**JANE:** A pretend one.

**CLAIRE:** Why would you need a pretend husband?

**JANE:** It's a long story.

**CLAIRE:** Could you give me the short version?

**JANE:** Well, you see, my uncle left me a little something in his will.

**CLAIRE:** A little something?

**JANE:** It's actually more like a big something.

**CLAIRE:** How big?

**JANE:** A million dollars big.

**CLAIRE:** That IS big!

**JANE:** Anyway, in order to get the inheritance, he put a stipulation in his will that I had to be married for six months before I would get the money.

**CLAIRE:** But you're not married!

**JANE:** Not technically, no.

**CLAIRE:** What do you mean not technically?

**JANE:** I mean technically not really married, but kind of, sort of, married.

**CLAIRE:** Sort of married how?

**JANE:** Well, I may have made up a husband.

**CLAIRE:** Why would you do that?

**JANE:** I can think of a million reasons why.

**CLAIRE:** Good point. But didn't I hear you say the attorney is coming here today?

**JANE:** Yes.

**CLAIRE:** To have you and your husband sign the documents?

**JANE:** Yes.

**CLAIRE:** So you can get the money?

**JANE:** That's right.

**CLAIRE:** But how is your pretend husband going to sign the documents?

**JANE:** Well, it's actually a bit more than a pretend husband.

**CLAIRE:** What do you mean?

**JANE:** I mean my pretend husband is actually a real person. Now, hold on one more minute. (*JANE dials phone again.*) Damn it, Tom, our chickens are coming home to roost.

**CLAIRE:** Who the hell do you keep calling?

**JANE:** My pretend husband.

**CLAIRE:** Your pretend husband Tom?

**JANE:** Yes.

**CLAIRE:** Tom who?

**JANE:** Oh, just Tom. You don't know him.

**CLAIRE:** That's strange. My husband is Tom, and your pretend husband is Tom.

**JANE:** Not as strange as you might think.

**CLAIRE:** What?

**JANE:** I said, can I get you a drink?

**CLAIRE:** Oh no, I can't have a drink. (*Doorbell rings.*)

**JANE:** That better be my husband. Claire, would you mind waiting in the kitchen for a moment while my husband and I go over the details?

**CLAIRE:** Your husband?

**JANE:** My pretend husband.

**CLAIRE:** Oh, right. *(CLAIRE exits to kitchen as JANE opens front door.)*

**PAUL:** Hello, Jane. *(JANE slams door.)*

**JANE:** Oh no! *(CLAIRE runs in from the kitchen.)*

**CLAIRE:** What is it?

**JANE:** It's Paul.

**CLAIRE:** Paul who?

**JANE:** You know...Paul, Paul.

**CLAIRE:** Not your ex-boyfriend Paul, Paul?

**JANE:** Yes, that Paul. The Paul who used to live here, the Paul I used to date, the Paul I used to love.

**CLAIRE:** I thought you still loved him.

**JANE:** I do. He's the one who left me, remember?

**CLAIRE:** Yes, I remember. He broke your heart. You didn't eat for days, except for that gallon of ice cream, and that box of Ho Ho's, and that pan of brownies...

**JANE:** What the hell is he doing here?

**CLAIRE:** Why don't you let him in and find out?

**JANE:** I can't let him in. Not now, not today.

**CLAIRE:** You could leave him standing out there.

**JANE:** Just wait in the kitchen. I'll find out what he wants and get rid of him so I can get on with getting the money. *(JANE goes to open door, stops and checks her breath. Goes to open door again, stops and fluffs her hair. Goes to open door again, stops and pushes up her breasts. JANE opens door, and in walks PAUL.)*

**JANE:** Hello, Paul.

**PAUL:** Hi, Jane.

**JANE:** Sorry about the door, I was just so shocked to see you. What are you doing here?

**PAUL:** I really need to talk to you.

**JANE:** Today?

**PAUL:** Yes, today, it's very important.

**JANE:** Couldn't it wait?

**PAUL:** No, it can't wait. It's about us.

**JANE:** You told me there was no us when you walked out on me eight months, three weeks and two days ago.

**PAUL:** I know I did, Jane, but I've been doing a lot of thinking lately.

**JANE:** And?

**PAUL:** And I've decided I can't live without you.

**JANE:** Really?

**PAUL:** I know you said before that you were working on your career, and I know I told you I couldn't have a woman who would put her career before our relationship. And I know I may have said I never wanted to see you again after you turned down my marriage proposal for the third time, but...

**JANE:** But what?

**PAUL:** But I was a fool. If you need to spend time working on your career, I completely understand. All I know is that without you, I'm nothing. I need you back in my life.

**JANE:** Oh, Paul!

**PAUL:** I've been going crazy these past few months. I was stupid to ever walk out on you. I'm so sorry. I don't know what I was thinking. Please take me back.

**JANE:** Oh, I will. I will. I've missed you so much. (*JANE and PAUL hug.*) It feels so good to have you hold me again.

**PAUL:** I love you, Jane. I promise I'll never leave you again. I can't believe I ever let you go. Please forgive me, Jane.

**JANE:** Oh, I do, I do.

**PAUL:** I don't ever want to be apart from you again, because we're better together.

**JANE:** I think so, too.

**PAUL:** Will you marry me? (*Drops down on one knee and pulls out ring from his pocket.*)

**JANE:** I will, I will.

**PAUL:** You will?

**JANE:** Oh yes...NO!

**PAUL:** What?

**JANE:** I mean, yes, I will, but now is not really a good time.

**PAUL:** Why not?

**JANE:** Well, Paul, this is difficult to explain.

**PAUL:** Oh no, you're not seeing someone, are you?

**JANE:** No, no, it's nothing like that. It's just that today is really not a good day for this.

**PAUL:** Why not?

**JANE:** I haven't got time to explain. Please know that I love you, but you've got to go now.

**PAUL:** But I just got back.

**JANE:** Please, Paul...

**PAUL:** Oh no. You are seeing someone else, aren't you? You're trying to get rid of me so I don't see him.

**JANE:** Really, Paul, there's no one else. Why you don't you run along.

**PAUL:** I'm not going anywhere. You just told me you'd marry me.

**JANE:** Did I?

**PAUL:** Yes, you did.

**JANE:** So I did, but now I've decided I'd like to think about it for a few days.

**PAUL:** But you just said yes.

**JANE:** I was just teasing you when I said that.

**PAUL:** Jane, would you be serious?

**JANE:** I'm sorry. I'm trying to be serious. It's just that something has happened and...

**PAUL:** Oh no, it is another man. Someone else has taken your hand in marriage. Oh Jane, I'm sorry. It's all my fault. I should never have left you. I should have come back months ago. I'm too late, and now I'll never know true love.

**JANE:** No, you're not too late. I love you, Paul, and I want to marry you, but right now you've got to go.

**PAUL:** But if I'm not too late and you want to marry me, why should I go anywhere?

**JANE:** Please, Paul.

**PAUL:** Jane, I walked out on you once before, and I'm not leaving you again.

**JANE:** Just for a few days?

**PAUL:** Not even for one day. Now, I'm going home to get my things together.

**JANE:** You're going?

**PAUL:** That's right, I'm going to get my clothes, and I'm moving back in immediately. I'll be back in a minute, and we'll get started on rekindling our relationship.

**JANE:** We will?

**PAUL:** Of course we will. I'll be right back, my love. *(PAUL exits out front door.)*

**JANE:** I'll be waiting for you. Oh, God! *(JANE crosses to kitchen.)*  
Claire, could I speak with you a moment? *(CLAIRE enters from kitchen eating a snack.)*

**CLAIRE:** What is it?

**JANE:** Trouble!

**CLAIRE:** Trouble where?

**JANE:** Trouble here.

**CLAIRE:** How so?!

**JANE:** Trouble as in Paul.

**CLAIRE:** Paul who?

**JANE:** Paul my ex-boyfriend, Paul who moved out eight months ago, Paul who now wants me back, Paul who wants to marry me, Paul who is going to get his things, Paul who is moving back in here right now!!!

**CLAIRE:** Paul wants to marry you? That's great!

**JANE:** Yes, that's great, but did you hear the rest of what I said?

**CLAIRE:** Yes, you said Paul, who's going to get his things and is moving back in here right now... Oh crap! What are you going to do?!

**JANE:** I don't know.

**CLAIRE:** What's he going to say when he comes back and your husband's here?

**JANE:** I don't know. We've got to think of something. He'll be back in a few minutes. Now, start thinking.

**CLAIRE:** I've got it. You'll just tell Paul the whole story and he can pretend to be your husband instead of this Tom guy.

**JANE:** Are you nuts? He'll never believe it. Besides, I don't want him to know about the money just yet. What are we going to do? We can't have Paul thinking I have another husband.

**CLAIRE:** Maybe your husband will be gone by the time Paul gets back and you won't have to worry about explaining anything to Paul.

**JANE:** Let's hope so.

**CLAIRE:** By the way, where is your husband? *(Exits to kitchen.)*

**JANE:** That's a good question. *(Doorbell rings.)* Speak of the devil. *(JANE goes to open door and there stands WILLIAM. WILLIAM wears a wig, glasses, moustache, and has stuffing in his shirt to make him look fatter. The audience should at no time know that the wig, glasses, moustache, and stuffing are fake.)*

**WILLIAM:** Hello, Jane. *(Slams door.)*

**JANE:** Claire!

**CLAIRE:** *(Enters eating a snack.)* What is it?

**JANE:** It's William.

**CLAIRE:** William? I thought you said he died.

**JANE:** William the attorney.

**CLAIRE:** What's he doing here already?

**JANE:** I have no idea.

**CLAIRE:** Are you going to let him in?

**JANE:** I can't.

**CLAIRE:** Why not?

**JANE:** Because my husband's not here.

**CLAIRE:** Are you going to leave him standing out there until your husband arrives?

**JANE:** That's not a bad idea... *(Grab snack from CLAIRE and start eating it.)* No, that will never work. I know, I'll let him in and have him wait in the dining room until my husband arrives. Now, we'll have to think of something to stall him until then. In the meantime, could you help me out?

**CLAIRE:** Me?

**JANE:** Yes, you. We are best friends, aren't we?

**CLAIRE:** Isn't Paul your best friend now?

**JANE:** Never mind, just help me out and go along with whatever I say. Okay?

**CLAIRE:** Okay. *(Grabs snack back. JANE opens door and lets WILLIAM in.)*

**JANE:** Oh, hello, William.

**WILLIAM:** Hello, Jane.

**JANE:** Sorry about the door. I was just so surprised to see you so soon. Come on in. I'd like you to meet my...sister.

**WILLIAM:** I didn't know you had a sister.

**JANE:** In-law. She's my sister-in-law.

**CLAIRE:** Sister-in-law?

**JANE:** Yes. This is Tom's sister.

**CLAIRE:** Tom's sister?

**JANE:** Tom's sister, Claire!

**CLAIRE:** Right. Tom's sister, Claire.

**WILLIAM:** It's a pleasure to meet you.

**CLAIRE:** Nice to meet you.

**JANE:** Now, William, what are you doing here already?

**WILLIAM:** Thought I would drop in a little early and check on you and your husband.

**JANE:** Whatever for?

**WILLIAM:** Just to make sure there isn't anything funny going on.

**JANE:** Why would there be anything funny going on?

**WILLIAM:** I'm a lawyer. There's always something funny going on. Where is he by the way?

**JANE:** Where is who?

**WILLIAM:** Your husband.

**JANE:** Oh...uh...he's not here at the moment.

**WILLIAM:** I thought you said he would be here.

**JANE:** He will be. He just stepped out for a moment.

**WILLIAM:** Stepped out where?

**JANE:** Who the hell knows!

**WILLIAM:** What?

**CLAIRE:** She said he had to run to Lowes.

**JANE:** Yes, that's right. We're doing a little remodeling in the upstairs bathroom. He had to run and get something for his pipes...I mean, the pipes. Anyway, he'll be right back. Why don't you get everything set up in the dining room, and we'll be in there in a minute to sign those papers of yours.

**WILLIAM:** Okay, but don't be long. I have quite a few appointments today. (*WILLIAM exits to dining room.*)

**JANE:** Great! What are we going to do?

**CLAIRE:** We?

**JANE:** Yes, we. We are best friends, aren't we?

**CLAIRE:** Aren't I your sister in-law now?

**JANE:** Never mind, just help me figure this out.

**CLAIRE:** Right, what are you, I mean we, going to do?

**JANE:** I don't know. We've got to come up with a husband, and we've got to come up with one fast.

**CLAIRE:** Where are we going to come up with a husband?

**JANE:** Let me think. Now, let's see... We can't use my husband, because we can't get ahold of him... We can't use Paul because we'd have to explain the whole thing to him, and that could take hours, besides the fact that we don't know when he's coming back.

**CLAIRE:** What about my husband Tom? We could explain everything to him. I'm sure he'd go along with it.

**JANE:** Funny you should say that.

**CLAIRE:** What?

**JANE:** Nothing. Anyway, there's no time. There's the neighbor's husband, but then we'd have to explain the whole thing to him, and he might want some of the money... I've got it.

**CLAIRE:** You do?!

**JANE:** Yes, you're going to help me out.

**CLAIRE:** I am?

**JANE:** Yes, you are.

**CLAIRE:** But how?

**JANE:** You're going to be my husband.

**CLAIRE:** I'm going to be whose husband?

**JANE:** Mine.

**CLAIRE:** Yours?

**JANE:** Yes!

**CLAIRE:** No!

**JANE:** Yes.

**CLAIRE:** No!

**JANE:** Please, Claire!

**CLAIRE:** But why me?

**JANE:** You're the only one here. Who else can it be?

**CLAIRE:** Someone other than me.

**JANE:** Claire, I really need your help.

**CLAIRE:** No, I'm sorry, Jane, I won't do it.

**JANE:** But, Claire!

**CLAIRE:** Forget it, there's no way I'm going to be your husband.

**JANE:** Not even for \$10,000?

**CLAIRE:** Not even for... What?

**JANE:** That's right. If you do it, I'll give you \$10,000.

**CLAIRE:** \$10,000?

**JANE:** Yes, now will you help me or not?

**CLAIRE:** I guess so.

**JANE:** Then you'd better be my husband.

**CLAIRE:** Fine. I'll be your husband. Am I still your sister-in-law?

**JANE:** No, you're just my husband.

**CLAIRE:** Boy, things sure change quickly around here.

**JANE:** This is no time for jokes.

**CLAIRE:** Sorry. What do you want me to do?

**JANE:** Go and find something to wear and get out here immediately and start acting like my husband.

**CLAIRE:** Where am I going to find something to wear?

**JANE:** I don't know. Oh wait, I think a few of Paul's things are still in one of the closets upstairs.

**CLAIRE:** Who's Paul?

**JANE:** My ex-boyfriend, who is now my fiancée.

**CLAIRE:** Oh right. (*Doorbell rings.*) This is one busy place.

**JANE:** Never mind. Get up there and get ready.

**CLAIRE:** Right, I'll be down in a minute. (*CLAIRE exits upstairs.*)

**WILLIAM:** I'm just about ready for you. Is your husband back yet?

**JANE:** Oh yes, actually, he just arrived.

**WILLIAM:** Well, where is he?

**JANE:** Oh, she's... He's just upstairs at the moment getting ready.

**WILLIAM:** Jane, would you two kindly hurry up so we can get on with it?

**JANE:** Yes, we'll be right in. (*Doorbell rings.*)

**WILLIAM:** Aren't you going to get that?

**JANE:** Get what?

**WILLIAM:** The door. The doorbell just rang.

**JANE:** I didn't hear it. (*Doorbell rings again.*) Now I did.

**WILLIAM:** Don't you think you ought to answer it?

**JANE:** No.

**WILLIAM:** Why not?

**JANE:** It's probably some Girl Scouts trying to sell cookies.

**WILLIAM:** Really?

**JANE:** Oh yes, I've already told them no. *(Doorbell rings again.)*

**WILLIAM:** I don't think they took the hint. *(JANE opens door only slightly so as not to reveal who is standing outside.)*

**JANE:** I told you I'm not interested. *(JANE slams the door. Doorbell rings.)*

**WILLIAM:** Quite persistent, aren't they?

**JANE:** Yes, aren't they? If you'll please just wait in the dining room.

Tom and I will join you in a minute. *(WILLIAM exits to dining room.)* Damn it, Tom, if that's you, you're going to be in a world of hurt. *(JANE goes to answer door, and in walks PAUL.)*

**PAUL:** I'm back!

**JANE:** So soon? That was quick.

**PAUL:** I only live five minutes away. Besides, I had everything packed. All I had to do was throw it in the car.

**JANE:** Yes, of course you did. Quite the planner, aren't you?

**PAUL:** Why did you slam the door in my face?

**JANE:** I'm sorry, Paul. I thought you were someone else.

**PAUL:** Really, who?

**JANE:** Jehovah's Witness.

**PAUL:** Why?

**JANE:** They've been knocking on our doors all week, trying to get us to join their little religious group. I keep telling them no, but they just won't take the hint.

**PAUL:** Well, next time they come to the door, you let me have a word with them. Now, I've brought some of my stuff. You and I can get the rest later. Do you want me to put it in our room?

**JANE:** Yes, why don't you do that? And be sure to take your time. Make sure you put everything exactly where it goes, and don't come out until you've finished. *(CLAIRE enters from upstairs dressed as man. Wears baseball cap put on backwards to cover her hair, baggy shirt to cover her chest and something to use as a moustache.)*

**CLAIRE:** Hey, babe.

**PAUL:** Who's this?

**JANE:** Umm...this is my pool boy.

**PAUL:** Your pool boy?

**JANE:** Yes, my pool boy Pedro?

**CLAIRE:** Pedro?

**JANE:** Yes, Pedro.

**CLAIRE:** Me Pedro?

**JANE:** Yes, very good, Pedro. Pedro doesn't speak any English. He's from Mexico.

**PAUL:** But he just said, "Hey, babe."

**JANE:** I just taught him that. I'm trying to teach him a few lines, so he can pick up the ladies. But that's all the English he knows. Isn't that right, Pedro?

**CLAIRE:** Oui.

**JANE:** That's all the French he knows, too.

**PAUL:** That's interesting, a Mexican speaking French.

**JANE:** Well, Pedro is an interesting person. Now, Pedro, would you go check on the pool?

**CLAIRE:** De pool?

**PAUL:** He's a quick learner.

**JANE:** Yes, isn't he? Pedro, outside, now!

**CLAIRE:** Outside?

**JANE:** Get out there!

**CLAIRE:** Okie dokie. *(CLAIRE exits to the kitchen.)*

**JANE:** Where were we?

**PAUL:** Jane, is there something you need to tell me?

**JANE:** I don't think so.

**PAUL:** Are you sure?

**JANE:** Of course I'm sure.

**PAUL:** Jane, you don't have a pool.

**JANE:** I don't?

**PAUL:** No, you don't.

**JANE:** So I don't. Now, if you'll just get your things put away.

**PAUL:** Why would you need a pool boy if you don't have a pool?

**JANE:** Well, you see... I figured I'd try out the pool boy before I got the pool. No use getting a pool if I can't find a competent pool boy to take care of it. So, if everything works out with Pedro, I'll be getting that pool in no time.

**PAUL:** I see. It's him, isn't it?

**JANE:** Him who?

**PAUL:** He's the man you've been seeing.

**JANE:** Pedro? No!

**PAUL:** It's true. My suspicions are correct. I'm too late to win you back. You're already seeing another man. Why didn't you tell me in the first place? Were you afraid it would break my heart? You're right! It has! I can't go on. I'm getting my things together and leaving.

**JANE:** No, Paul, wait, let me explain.

**PAUL:** I don't need an explanation. If you're happy with him, then so be it.

**JANE:** Please, Paul, trust me, there's nothing going on between her... Him and me.

**PAUL:** Really?

**JANE:** Yes, really.

**PAUL:** Thank goodness. I've never seen a worse man for you in my life.

**JANE:** Yes, now please go and get unpacked, and I'll join you in a minute.

**PAUL:** Right away, honey. *(PAUL exits to DSR bedroom as JANE crosses to kitchen to get CLAIRE.)*

**JANE:** Pedro?

**CLAIRE:** *(Sticks head out kitchen door.)* Pedro not here.

**JANE:** I mean, Tom.

**CLAIRE:** Tom?

**JANE:** Tom, my husband.

**CLAIRE:** *(Sticks head out kitchen door.)* Your husband's not here.

**JANE:** That's you!

**CLAIRE:** Oh, right. *(Enters from kitchen.)* What the hell was all that about me being a pool boy?

**JANE:** Well, I couldn't tell Paul what you're really doing here, now could I?

**CLAIRE:** Good point.

**JANE:** William is waiting for us in the dining room. Let's get this over with. Just remember, you're my husband Tom. That is, except for when you see Paul. Then you're Pedro the pool boy. Got all that?

**CLAIRE:** I think so. I'm no longer your sister-in-law, Claire, but your husband, Pedro.

**JANE:** Exactly! No! You're my husband Tom when William is around, but when Paul is around you're my pool boy Pedro.

**CLAIRE:** OK, let me try again. I'm Tom for William and Pedro for Paul, but Claire for no one. Is that right?

**JANE:** Yes, that's right.

**CLAIRE:** Sounds easy enough. (*WILLIAM enters from dining room.*)

**WILLIAM:** Jane, I don't know... Oh, you must be Tom.

**CLAIRE:** Must I?

**JANE:** Yes, you must. This is my husband, Tom.

**CLAIRE:** That's right, I'm her husband, Tom. Isn't that right, sweet cheeks? (*CLAIRE pinches JANE's rear.*)

**JANE:** Oh! Yes, that's right.

**CLAIRE:** We're just two little lovebirds, so madly in love. I hope this doesn't take too long, because Jane and I were planning a special day alone together.

**JANE:** We were?

**CLAIRE:** You're such a kidder. You see, we were planning to spend all day in bed doing... Well, you know what.

**JANE:** Tom, I'm sure William doesn't care what we are planning on doing. Now, can we just go in the dining room and sign those papers?

**CLAIRE:** Oh right, I'm sorry to have kept you waiting, William. I just had to run out for a few moments to get a little fitting for my pipe.

**WILLIAM:** What?

**CLAIRE:** An extension for my pipe, because Jane said it wasn't long enough.

**WILLIAM:** I beg your pardon?

**JANE:** He means we are remodeling our bathroom, and he needed to get an extension for the bathroom pipes. William, why don't we go in the dining room and get those papers signed? (*Doorbell rings.*)

**WILLIAM:** Is it those damn Girl Scouts again?

**JANE:** Yes, it must be. Tom, why don't you take William in the dining room and get started on those papers while I get rid of whoever's at the door.

**CLAIRE:** Right, don't be long, babe. Come along, William. *(CLAIRE and WILLIAM exit to dining room. JANE goes to answer door and in walks TOM.)*

**TOM:** I'm sorry. I got here as soon as I could. I had a little car trouble.

**JANE:** Oh no!

**TOM:** I hope I'm not too late.

**JANE:** Not now!

**TOM:** You specifically said today was the day.

**JANE:** It doesn't matter.

**TOM:** But you left me three messages. You sounded quite panicked.

**JANE:** Shhhh!

**TOM:** Why are you shushing me?

**JANE:** Look, could you come back another time?

**TOM:** But I'm ready to be your husband.

**JANE:** Shut up!

**TOM:** That's no way to talk to your husband.

**JANE:** Damn it, Tom!

**TOM:** Look, if you can't be a little nicer to me, you can forget the whole thing.

**JANE:** For god's sake, Tom!

**TOM:** For the last time, Jane, stop yelling at me. *(CLAIRE enters from dining room.)*

**CLAIRE:** Jane, are you coming?

**TOM:** Oh hello, you must be William. I'm Jane's husband, Tom. *(Puts arm around JANE.)*

**CLAIRE:** Jane's husband?

**TOM:** That's right.

**JANE:** He's not my husband. *(Pushes TOM's arm off.)*

**TOM:** Yes, I am! *(Puts arm around JANE again.)*

**JANE:** No, you're not! *(Pushes TOM's arm off again.)*

**TOM:** Of course I am. *(Puts arm around JANE again.)* William, should we get started?

**CLAIRE:** I think I'm going to be sick. *(CLAIRE exits to bathroom.)*

**TOM:** What's the matter with him?

**JANE:** You idiot, that's not William.

**TOM:** Oh, then is he William's assistant?

**JANE:** You're going to blow everything if you're not careful!

**TOM:** What do you mean? *(CLAIRE enters from bathroom.)*

**CLAIRE:** How could you two?

**TOM:** How could we what? Wait a minute, don't I know you?

**CLAIRE:** I don't think so.

**TOM:** Claire, is that you?

**CLAIRE:** No!

**TOM:** Yes, it is. You look ridiculous. What are you doing?

**CLAIRE:** I think I'll ask the questions around here. What are you doing?

**TOM:** What do you mean?

**CLAIRE:** I mean, how could you marry my best friend, you jerk?

**JANE:** Claire, please.

**CLAIRE:** And as for you—

**JANE:** You've got it all wrong.

**CLAIRE:** Oh, I bet I do. I bet the two of you have been planning this for years. Sneaking around behind my back like two sex-crazed maniacs. All those times he said he was working late at the office. Now I know what he was really up to.

**TOM:** What are you talking about?

**CLAIRE:** I don't know how you two could do this to me!

**JANE:** Claire, would you relax?

**CLAIRE:** How am I supposed to relax when you just told me my husband went and got married behind my back and now he's got two wives?

**TOM:** Two wives?

**CLAIRE:** You two-timing son of a—

**JANE:** Claire!

**CLAIRE:** Why the hell would you do that to me? I thought we were best friends.

**JANE:** We are.

**CLAIRE:** So this is how friends treat one another?

**JANE:** No, of course not.

**CLAIRE:** Well, that's it. The gloves are off. It's on now.

**JANE:** What's on? (*CLAIRE starts to fight and choke JANE and they fall on the couch.*) Ahhh! Tom, do something!

**TOM:** I am doing something. I'm watching.

**JANE:** Please, Tom!

**TOM:** This is great! I've never seen a catfight before.

**JANE:** Damn it, Tom! (*WILLIAM enters from dining room as the scuffle continues on the couch.*)

**WILLIAM:** I'm still...oh no! If you two are having a domestic disturbance, perhaps I should come back another time. (*CLAIRE and JANE both stop. CLAIRE and JANE will begin to struggle again and continue to struggle during the following dialogue.*)

**JANE:** No, we're just playing a little game...acting out scenes from our favorite Shakespeare plays.

**WILLIAM:** You're acting?

**JANE:** I will speak daggers to him but use none.

**CLAIRE:** No, just a sharp knife in the back.

**JANE:** Love is blind, and lovers cannot see.

**CLAIRE:** You got that right.

**JANE:** Beware the ides of March.

**CLAIRE:** To die or not to die, that is the question.

**WILLIAM:** Do you think you two could take the time to stop messing around and join me in the dining room?

**JANE:** Yes, William, I think we can do that, can't we? (*Looks to CLAIRE. JANE and CLAIRE stop struggling.*)

**TOM:** So you're William?

**WILLIAM:** That's right.

**TOM:** Nice to meet you. I'm Tom.

**JANE:** No!

**WILLIAM:** You're Tom as well?

**TOM:** As well as who?

**WILLIAM:** As well as him.

**TOM:** Him?

**WILLIAM:** Yes, his name's Tom as well.

**TOM:** It is?

**JANE:** Yes, it is! Now, Tom...

**TOM:** Strange, there being two Toms here.

**JANE:** Yes, isn't it? Now, Tom...

**TOM:** Well, it's a pleasure to meet you, William. I'm Jane's husband.

**CLAIRE:** I don't feel so well. *(CLAIRE exits to bathroom.)*

**WILLIAM:** You can't be Jane's husband.

**TOM:** Why not?

**WILLIAM:** Because she's married to him. *(Indicating CLAIRE.)*

**TOM:** She's what?

**JANE:** Yes. That's right. I am married to him. *(Indicating CLAIRE.)*

**TOM:** But I thought...

**JANE:** Never mind what you thought.

**TOM:** But, Jane...

**JANE:** It doesn't matter. Now, Tom, I'm married to that other man, who is also named Tom. Got it?

**TOM:** I think so, but if you're...

**JANE:** I'm sorry, Tom, but you'll just have to get over it. I've moved on.

**TOM:** Moved on from what?

**JANE:** From you. You see, William, this is my other husband, Tom.

**WILLIAM:** Your other husband?

**JANE:** Yes, my other husband.

**WILLIAM:** You've got two husbands?

**JANE:** Yes - I mean, no, I haven't got two husbands. This is my ex-husband, Tom. Isn't that right, Tom?

**TOM:** Is it?

**JANE:** Of course it is.

**TOM:** Right, I'm her ex-husband, Tom.

**WILLIAM:** So your current husband is Tom, and your ex-husband is Tom?

**JANE:** That's right.

**WILLIAM:** Quite handy both of them being named Tom.

**JANE:** Oh yes, never forget their names with both of them being Tom. William, I'll be right in as soon as I deal with Tom.

**WILLIAM:** This Tom or that Tom?

**JANE:** This Tom. If you'll just wait for me in the dining room...

**WILLIAM:** Certainly. *(WILLIAM exits to the dining room.)*

**TOM:** What the hell was all that about?

**JANE:** You idiot! You're going to blow everything if you're not careful.

**TOM:** What are you talking about? You told me to get here right away.

**JANE:** You're too late. While you were out lollygagging around, William showed up and needed to see my husband, so I had to come up with a different husband.

**TOM:** You've got another husband? How could you do this to me? I thought what we had was special.

**JANE:** Oh knock it off.

**TOM:** But Jane, I thought our marriage meant something.

**JANE:** Stop it, already.

**TOM:** Typical, the man turns his back for one minute and the lady is out looking for another man.

**JANE:** Enough already.

**TOM:** Oh, all right. Wait a minute. Does this mean I'm not getting the \$20,000 you promised me to pretend to be your husband?

**JANE:** Oh no, you're still getting the money.

**TOM:** Who is this new husband of yours?

**JANE:** Who do you think?

**TOM:** You mean you convinced Claire to dress up as man and pretend to be your husband? *(CLAIRE enters from bathroom.)*

**CLAIRE:** Now, where were we? Oh, that's right, I was just in the process of tearing your eyes out.

**TOM:** Claire, what is wrong with you?

**CLAIRE:** Put a sock in it. I'll deal with you after I've finished with Jane.

**TOM:** What are you doing?

**CLAIRE:** I'm going to kill my wife.

**JANE:** Claire, please let me explain.

**CLAIRE:** Very well, explain.

**JANE:** Well, you see—

**CLAIRE:** Oh forget it. Get over here so I can kill you.

**JANE:** Tom, would you do something?

**TOM:** What the hell do you want me to do?

**JANE:** Start explaining.

**TOM:** Claire, would you just relax and let us explain?

**CLAIRE:** Fine, but if it's not good, you better get ready to die.

**JANE:** Okay, now, where do I start?

**CLAIRE:** The beginning would be a very good place.

**JANE:** As you know, my uncle passed away about nine months ago.

**CLAIRE:** You're starting at nine months ago? I think you better skip to the part about marrying my husband.

**JANE:** Do you want the explanation or not?

**CLAIRE:** Yes.

**JANE:** Then stop interrupting and listen to me. As I was saying, my uncle passed away nine months ago and he put me in his will. I was to inherit one million dollars, but only if I was married for six months. After six months, his lawyer William was instructed to give me the million dollars after he checked over all our paperwork to make sure the marriage was legit.

**CLAIRE:** But why would your uncle do that to you?

**JANE:** Apparently, he thought I would never settle down and I would end up being an old spinster, so he set this whole thing up to make sure that didn't happen.

**CLAIRE:** How dare him.

**JANE:** Anyway, because of that small stipulation in the will, I had to come up with a husband, and Tom graciously helped me out.

**CLAIRE:** I bet he did.

**JANE:** So now your husband is my husband.

**CLAIRE:** How dare you marry my husband! You two-timing son—

**TOM:** Claire, would you calm down?

**CLAIRE:** Oh, that's easy for you to say. How could you do this to me? Marrying my best friend...

**TOM:** Claire, would you let her finish?!?

**CLAIRE:** And as for you, stealing my husband away from me?

**JANE:** Would you be quiet for one minute and let me finish?!?

**CLAIRE:** Fine. You've got one minute!

**JANE:** I'm not really married to your husband.

**CLAIRE:** But... You just said you were.

**JANE:** I know what I said. Zip it for one minute. Tom and I are only pretending to be married to get the million dollars.

**CLAIRE:** Pretending how?

**JANE:** I mean we forged all the documents, made up some wedding invitations, cropped some photos, and everything else we could think of to pretend we're married.

**CLAIRE:** What the hell did you do that for?

**JANE:** It was the best I could come up with to get the money.

**CLAIRE:** Well, couldn't you have found a husband who's not already married?

**JANE:** And where the hell would I find a husband, the yellow pages?  
There is a little something in this for you and Tom.

**CLAIRE:** What do you mean?

**JANE:** This is where your lucky day begins. I told your husband if he would pretend to be my husband that I'd give him \$20,000.

**CLAIRE:** You mean?

**JANE:** That's right. You and my husband are getting \$20,000.

**CLAIRE:** Me and your husband?

**JANE:** I mean you and your husband.

**CLAIRE:** And it's \$30,000 by the way.

**JANE:** Is it?

**CLAIRE:** Didn't you say you would give me \$10,000 for being your husband?

**JANE:** Yes, I did.

**CLAIRE:** So with the \$20,000 you are giving Tom to be your husband, that's \$30,000.

**JANE:** But he's not my husband anymore.

**CLAIRE:** Do you want me to help you or not?

**JANE:** I guess so.

**CLAIRE:** Then is it \$30,000 or not?

**JANE:** I guess it is.

**CLAIRE:** Just a minute. Why am I only getting \$10,000 and he's getting \$20,000?

**JANE:** Because he was smart and asked for more. *(Exits to kitchen to fill tray with cookies.)*

**CLAIRE:** Very good, Tom. Now, why the hell didn't you two tell me before?

**TOM:** We wanted to surprise you.

**CLAIRE:** You sure as hell did. *(JANE enters from kitchen with cookies.)* I don't know if I can forgive you for marrying my husband.

**JANE:** Would \$30,000 do the trick?

**CLAIRE:** That would be a very good start. (*WILLIAM enters from dining room.*)

**WILLIAM:** I've been thinking...

**JANE:** What is it, William? (*Holds out tray of cookies to offer to WILLIAM.*)

**WILLIAM:** (*To JANE, referring to cookies.*) No, thank you. Tom—

**TOM:** Yes?

**WILLIAM:** Not Jane's ex-husband Tom, I mean Jane's husband Tom.

**CLAIRE:** Ex-husband?

**WILLIAM:** Oh yes, didn't you know this is Jane's ex-husband?

**CLAIRE:** It is?

**WILLIAM:** Yes, and his name's Tom as well. (*Just then CLAIRE faints on the couch.*) Oh no! What's wrong with him?

**JANE:** Who the hell knows? (*Sets cookies on coffee table.*)

**WILLIAM:** Well, don't you think we should do something?

**JANE:** I'm sure she'll...he'll be fine.

**WILLIAM:** But he just fainted, and he went to the bathroom a moment ago because he was sick.

**JANE:** I'm sure it's nothing. He has these little fainting spells all the time.

**WILLIAM:** Really? Do you know why?

**JANE:** Oh, it's a mystery to us.

**WILLIAM:** Jane, we've got to deal with him. It could be serious.

**JANE:** I think you're overreacting.

**WILLIAM:** But Jane, he could have a medical condition. We should get him to a hospital immediately.

**JANE:** No!

**WILLIAM:** Why not?

**JANE:** I don't think we should move him. Besides, the hospital might find something we don't want them to find.

**WILLIAM:** Like what?

**TOM:** I can think of a couple things.

**WILLIAM:** What are you talking about?

**JANE:** What he means is, it could be really bad news and we wouldn't want that today.

**WILLIAM:** But if he's sick, he may need immediate attention.

**JANE:** But if he's really sick, we may not have time to get him to a hospital.

**WILLIAM:** That's a good point. We better call 911.

**JANE:** No!

**WILLIAM:** Jane, I think you need to be a little more concerned about your husband's condition.

**JANE:** Oh, I am. I'm very concerned. I just don't think that 911 is the best option.

**WILLIAM:** What other option do we have?

**JANE:** I know. My neighbor is a nurse.

**WILLIAM:** She is? Why didn't you say so sooner?

**JANE:** It must have slipped my mind with all the excitement. Tom would you mind running next door and getting Judy?

**TOM:** Who's Judy?

**JANE:** The nurse. Now, if you'll just run and get Judy, we can have her check on Tom.

**TOM:** Right, won't be a minute.

**JANE:** And Tom?

**TOM:** Yes?

**JANE:** Be sure to tell her everything that's going on here.

**TOM:** Everything?

**JANE:** Yes, everything. You might want to offer her a little something for helping us out.

**TOM:** A little something?!?! (*Looks down at crotch.*)

**JANE:** Maybe five or ten little somethings.

**TOM:** Oh, right. (*TOM exits out kitchen door.*)

**JANE:** William, would you mind helping me get Tom to the bedroom?

**WILLIAM:** But I thought you said we shouldn't move him?

**JANE:** Well, now I've changed my mind. I think it would be better if he were to lie down in bed.

**WILLIAM:** OK, which rooms is yours?

**JANE:** This one over here. (*Motions to DS bedroom door.*)

**WILLIAM:** I'll just open the door then, so we can get him in there.

**JANE:** Yes, you do that... Wait! (*Crosses to DS bedroom door to block WILLIAM from opening it.*)

**WILLIAM:** What is it?

**JANE:** We can't take him in there.

**WILLIAM:** Why not?

**JANE:** Because that's not his room.

**WILLIAM:** But you just said it was.

**JANE:** What I meant is it's my room.

**WILLIAM:** Your room? Don't you and husband share the same room?

**JANE:** Well, we do when we're...you know... But we don't sleep together.

**WILLIAM:** You don't? Why not?

**JANE:** Tom is a terrible snorer. I can't sleep with him in the same room.

**WILLIAM:** Really?

**JANE:** Oh yes, he sounds like a chainsaw when he sleeps.

**WILLIAM:** I see.

**JANE:** So we really should get him to his own room. We wouldn't want him to wake up in my room. That could be quite a shock for him.

**WILLIAM:** I suppose it would. *(PAUL enters from DSR bedroom as WILLIAM and JANE pick up CLAIRE and get her on her feet.)*

**PAUL:** Jane, I've finished putting my things away. *(JANE pushes CLAIRE to WILLIAM and they fall on the couch.)* Oh what's going on?

**JANE:** Nothing, there's nothing going on.

**PAUL:** Then what are you doing with this man?

**JANE:** Well... You see... He fainted, so we need to get him in the bedroom until he comes to.

**PAUL:** That's terrible. What caused him to faint?

**JANE:** We're really not sure, are we, William?

**WILLIAM:** Actually, it seemed to be your ex-husband that set him off.

**PAUL:** Your ex-husband?

**JANE:** Thank you, William.

**PAUL:** Your ex-husband?

**JANE:** Yes, my ex-husband.

**PAUL:** I didn't know you have an ex-husband.

**JANE:** Oh yes. Quick wedding, quick honeymoon, quick divorce. Now you know.

**PAUL:** But Jane, I thought I was your one and only.

**JANE:** I don't like to talk about it. It was an awful stage in my life. It only lasted a short time. I know now that it was a mistake. I'm sorry I didn't tell you about it. If you'd please go back in the bedroom, I'll explain everything to you once I deal with what's going on out here.

**PAUL:** But...

**JANE:** No buts, Paul, let's not speak another word of it. It brings back such bad memories. It was terrible, I tell you, terrible. I just can't deal with the heartache right now.

**PAUL:** I'm sorry, Jane. I didn't know.

**JANE:** Now you know why I didn't tell you.

**PAUL:** I guess so. I'm sorry for bringing up the past.

**JANE:** You ought to be. Please just go back to the bedroom.

**WILLIAM:** Just a minute. Who is this?

**JANE:** This is nobody.

**PAUL:** I'm not nobody. I'm Paul.

**WILLIAM:** Why were you in Jane's bedroom?

**PAUL:** Because I'm her fiancée.

**WILLIAM:** Her what?

**PAUL:** Her fiancée.

**WILLIAM:** You can't be her fiancée.

**PAUL:** Why not?

**WILLIAM:** Because she's already married to him.

**PAUL:** I thought he was the pool boy.

**JANE:** Is he?

**PAUL:** Isn't that what you told me before?

**JANE:** Did I?

**PAUL:** Yes, you did. Are you married to your pool boy?

**JANE:** No, of course not, don't be silly. (*JANE mimes to WILLIAM that PAUL is crazy.*) Paul, would you just wait in the bedroom for a moment while I work things out? I'll be with you in a minute and then you and I can work things out.

**PAUL:** I don't think there's anything for you and I to work out.

**JANE:** Please, Paul. I'll be right in to explain everything.

**PAUL:** You mean explain to me that I'm too late and you and I can never be?

**JANE:** No, nothing like that. Now, please, I'm begging you.

**PAUL:** Fine, I'll just be in here trying to mend my broken heart. (*PAUL exits to DSR bedroom.*)

**JANE:** Where were we?

**WILLIAM:** Hold on a second. (*CLAIRE stirs.*)

**JANE:** I think Tom is coming around.

**WILLIAM:** No, he isn't.

**JANE:** Yes, he is. (*Speaking louder.*)

**WILLIAM:** No, he isn't.

**JANE:** I think he is. Tom, you're coming around, aren't you? (*Speaking even louder.*)

**WILLIAM:** I'm telling you he's not.

**JANE:** Tom! Are you in there? Tom! (*JANE stands on couch and begins to jump up and down.*) Can you hear me? Mayday! Mayday! (*CLAIRE falls on the floor.*) I guess you're right, he's still out cold.

**WILLIAM:** I told you so. What's going on?

**JANE:** Whatever do you mean?

**WILLIAM:** You know perfectly well what I mean.

**JANE:** Oh yes, you mean him. (*Referring to PAUL.*) That was interesting, wasn't it?

**WILLIAM:** It certainly was. Why does that man think your husband is the pool boy?

**JANE:** (*Grabs tray of cookies trying to distract WILLIAM.*) Cookie?

**WILLIAM:** No, thank you. You were saying?

**JANE:** Well...um...you see...it's a sad, sad story.

**WILLIAM:** What is?

**JANE:** You see, that man is my brother-in-law.

**WILLIAM:** That's Tom's brother?

**JANE:** Apparently.

**WILLIAM:** I didn't know Tom had a brother.

**JANE:** Oh, not many people do. We've been trying to keep it a secret.

**WILLIAM:** But why?

**JANE:** Well, you see, he has no grain in his silo.

**WILLIAM:** Is he a farmer?

**JANE:** No, he's not a farmer. What I mean is he's got a few screws loose.

**WILLIAM:** So he's a carpenter then?

**JANE:** No, he's not a carpenter either. Follow me here, William...  
What I'm trying to say is he's crazy.

**WILLIAM:** Crazy?

**JANE:** Oh yes, he's a schizophrenic.

**WILLIAM:** A schizophrenic? Is that why he didn't recognize his own brother?

**JANE:** Yes, that must be why. You see... That's my schizophrenic brother-in-law, Paul. That's why we've been trying to keep it a secret. We don't want anyone to know we've got a nutcase in the family.

**WILLIAM:** But what's he doing here?

**JANE:** Oh, they let him out for the weekend.

**WILLIAM:** Who let him out?

**JANE:** The farm.

**WILLIAM:** I thought you said he wasn't a farmer?

**JANE:** The funny farm.

**WILLIAM:** Really?

**JANE:** That's right, and we've got to keep him here. They won't let him leave the farm unless we promise to keep him here under our supervision. It's dreadful, but we're doing our best to deal with it.

**WILLIAM:** He's not dangerous, is he?

**JANE:** At this point, only to himself. You see, he's got all these characters running around inside his head, and he can't remember who anyone is anymore. It's an awful condition.

**WILLIAM:** How sad.

**JANE:** Yes, isn't it?

**WILLIAM:** How did he end up that way?

**JANE:** End up what way?

**WILLIAM:** Crazy.

**JANE:** Oh, right! It has to do with the pool boy he was talking about. That's what drove him over the edge. You see, he was engaged to be married, but his fiancée left him for the pool boy, and he was devastated. It drove him mad. Now he thinks every woman he sees is his fiancée and every man is a pool boy trying to steal her away from him.

**WILLIAM:** Oh my goodness, that's terrible.

**JANE:** I know, I know. We've been trying to cure him of the condition for years, but he's beyond help. The only thing we can do is try to keep him away from pools.

**WILLIAM:** Makes sense.

**JANE:** William, would you please give me a hand to get Tom to the bedroom?

**WILLIAM:** Certainly. *(JANE and WILLIAM struggle to pick up CLAIRE and finally pick her up. WILLIAM has her feet, and JANE has her upper body. They begin to carry her to US bedroom.)* Hold on a minute. *(WILLIAM grabs a cookie off the tray and puts it in his mouth.)* Okay, let's go. *(WILLIAM and JANE exit with CLAIRE to the US bedroom.)*

**JANE:** Just lay him on the bed. *(Closes US bedroom door. TOM enters from kitchen just as JANE and WILLIAM exit.)*

**TOM:** Jane! *(Looks in dining room.)* Jane! *(Calls up the stairs.)* Jane, where are you? *(JANE enters from US bedroom calling back into room.)*

**JANE:** Just stay with him for a moment, I'll be right back. *(Notices TOM.)* Did you get Judy?

**TOM:** Sort of.

**JANE:** What do you mean sort of? Either you did or you didn't.

**TOM:** Then I guess I did.

**JANE:** Well, Where is she?

**TOM:** She'll be along shortly, but don't be surprised if it's not the Judy you think it is.

**JANE:** What?

**TOM:** What I mean is she might look a little different than the last time you saw her.

**JANE:** What the hell are you talking about?

**TOM:** Just try not to look too shocked when she arrives.

**JANE:** Why would I be shocked?

**TOM:** Because it's not quite the Judy you're expecting.

**JANE:** Then who is she?

**TOM:** It doesn't matter. What matters is that she's on her way. She'll be here in a few minutes.

**JANE:** Good. In the meantime, could you give us a hand in the bedroom with Claire?

**TOM:** Sorry, I can't.

**JANE:** What do you mean you can't?

**TOM:** Gotta run. Be back in a bit.

**JANE:** But I need your help. *(TOM is crossing to kitchen with JANE pulling on his arm when PAUL enters from DS bedroom and catches them embracing.)*

**PAUL:** Jane, are you coming or not? Oh, who are you?

**TOM:** *(Whispers to JANE.)* Am I still your ex-husband?

**JANE:** No! Paul, do you remember Claire's husband, Tom?

**PAUL:** No, I never met him.

**JANE:** You didn't?

**PAUL:** No, I remember Claire, but I never met her husband.

**JANE:** It's a good thing, because this isn't him.

**PAUL:** Then why did you mention him?

**JANE:** Oh, no reason.

**PAUL:** Jane, you are acting very strange today. Are you trying to hide something from me?

**JANE:** No, it's nothing like that. For some strange reason, Claire's husband popped into my head, and I was just wondering if you've ever met him. Paul, this is Pedro.

**TOM:** Pedro?

**PAUL:** I thought Pedro was your pool boy?

**JANE:** You didn't let me finish. I mean Pedro's brother, Pablo.

**TOM:** Pablo?

**PAUL:** Oh, does Pablo only speak Spanish and French as well?

**JANE:** I beg your pardon?

**PAUL:** Remember, Pedro is from Mexico, and he speaks Spanish and French.

**JANE:** Oh, right. No, Pablo speaks English, isn't that right, Pablo?

**TOM:** This is getting good.

**JANE:** What!?

**TOM:** English is very good.

**JANE:** Yes, isn't it? Pablo is my interior decorator.

**TOM:** Getting better by the minute.

**JANE:** What!?

**TOM:** English getting better by the minute.

**JANE:** (*JANE shoots TOM a dirty look.*) It certainly is. You see, Pablo's a little feminine, that's why he's in that line of work. Isn't that right, Pablo?

**TOM:** That's right.

**JANE:** You see...he's sort of... (*JANE bends wrist to indicate gay.*)

**TOM:** Yep. I'm sort of... (*TOM bends his wrist.*)

**PAUL:** Sort of what?

**JANE:** You know...sort of... (*JANE puts her hand on her hip in a feminine way.*)

**TOM:** That's right, I'm sort of... (*TOM puts his hand on his hip in a feminine way.*)

**PAUL:** You mean?

**JANE:** That's right. Pablo is gay.

**TOM:** Yep, I'm gay as gay can be... (*Sinks in.*) I'm what?

**JANE:** Oh now, Pablo, it's okay. You don't need to hide it anymore.

**TOM:** I'm not hiding anything.

**JANE:** Well, not anymore, you're not. Pablo's a little embarrassed about the whole thing, you see. He doesn't want everyone to know about it.

**TOM:** Your damn right I don't.

**JANE:** You see...Pablo's been in the closet for quite some time now.

**PAUL:** He has?

**JANE:** Yes, and he just came out.

**TOM:** I just came out of the closet!?!

**JANE:** We know you did, Pablo. You don't have to shout it to everyone.

**TOM:** I'm not shouting anything!

**JANE:** Pablo, it's okay. What you do is your own business. If that's what makes you happy, so be it. We are not here to judge. Are we, Paul?

**PAUL:** I'm not judging anyone.

**TOM:** Shut up!

**PAUL:** Why are you getting snippy? There's nothing wrong with it. We accept you the way you are.

**TOM:** How could you?

**JANE:** Getting better by the minute, isn't it?

**TOM:** Oh God!

**JANE:** Now, Pablo, there's no need to get upset. If that's the choice you've made, you should be proud of it.

**TOM:** I haven't made any choice.

**JANE:** \$20,000 says you did.

**TOM:** What?

**JANE:** The \$20,000 you're getting to redo my guest bedroom.

**TOM:** I don't understand.

**JANE:** The \$20,000 we agreed upon for you to be my interior decorator and to get in there and deal with whatever is going on in the bedroom. The \$20,000 I'm not giving you to be anyone's ex-husband.

**TOM:** I think you've lost me... Oh! Right... *(TOM will begin to act feminine at this stage and from now on when he is "Pablo" and sees PAUL.)* ...the \$20,000 to be your interior decorator.

**JANE:** Yes, now, if you'll just get in there and start working on the bedroom and stay out of the way.

**TOM:** Right.

**JANE:** Thank you, Pedro.

**TOM:** Pablo.

**JANE:** What?

**TOM:** I'm Pablo, Pedro's brother.

**JANE:** Right. Thank you, Pablo.

**TOM:** No problemo. I'll just be in here, getting started on that work in the bedroom. *(TOM is about to exit to the US bedroom when he stops.)* Just as soon as I've finished what I was doing in the kitchen. *(Crosses to kitchen.)*

**JANE:** You weren't doing anything in the kitchen. *(JANE pulls TOM back to stop him from going in the kitchen.)*

**TOM:** Yes, I was.

**JANE:** No, you weren't.

**TOM:** Don't you remember? I was working on that estimate to redo your kitchen also.

**JANE:** No, you weren't.

**TOM:** Yes, I was. I think it's going to be around \$20,000.

**JANE:** \$20,000?

**TOM:** That's \$20,000 in addition to the \$20,000 for the guest bedroom.

**JANE:** I'm not giving you another \$20,000!

**PAUL:** Jane, I think you should give him the money. \$20,000 is a good price for a kitchen remodel, and it needs it.

**JANE:** Oh shut up!

**PAUL:** Why are you yelling at me?

**JANE:** I'm sorry, Paul, I don't mean to yell.

**PAUL:** I'm only trying to help!

**JANE:** Well, you're not. Let me deal with this on my own.

**PAUL:** Very well.

**JANE:** Now, about that extra \$20,000?

**TOM:** Do you want me to continue with the job?

**JANE:** Yes, but...

**TOM:** Then I suggest you give me the money to finish it?

**JANE:** Fine, I'll give you the money.

**TOM:** Good. If you'll excuse me, I'll just be in here getting started.

**JANE:** Yes, you do that. And Pablo?

**TOM:** Yes?

**JANE:** For \$40,000, your work had better be good.

**TOM:** Trust me, you'll be quite pleased with the plan I've come up with. It's going to be fabulous. *(TOM exits to the kitchen.)*

**JANE:** Well, now that we have that taken care of, where were we?

**PAUL:** I just came out to tell you I've finished putting my things away.

**JANE:** That was fast.

**PAUL:** I didn't waste any time. I wanted to get it done quickly, so you and I could start where we left off all those months ago.

**JANE:** How thoughtful.

**PAUL:** I hope you don't mind, but I rearranged your clothes so I could fit my stuff in your drawers.

**JANE:** You did? Oh no, Paul, that won't do.

**PAUL:** Why not? We're getting married. We'll have to share our drawers someday.

**JANE:** Yes, but I don't want you in my drawers today. You'll have to go put them back the way they were. I am very particular about my clothes. I can't have you sorting through my personal items and putting them out of order.

**PAUL:** But where will I put my things then?

**JANE:** You can have the drawers in the walk-in closet, but the drawers in the bedroom are mine. Get back in there and put my things back the way I had them.

**PAUL:** But that could take forever.

**JANE:** I'm sorry, Paul, but if you don't do it, you can forget about this marriage. I will not have a controlling husband.

**PAUL:** I'm not controlling.

**JANE:** You say that now. First, you'll start by rearranging my undies, then you'll start telling me what to wear, and finally you won't even let me leave the house.

**PAUL:** I would never do that.

**JANE:** Then prove it by putting my things back the way they were.

**PAUL:** Right. Oh Jane, I almost forgot.

**JANE:** Yes.

**PAUL:** Who was that man helping you with the pool boy?

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