

Name of Play

A full-length play

By Your Name here

Contact:
Your Name
Address
Phone
Email

<< OR >>

Represented by:
Mary Agent
The Mary Agency
123 Main Street
Anytown, USA 11111

*A woman and a man in their fifties .
He sits at small table centre stage.
She stands behind him watching him with folded arms. He is
finishing a meal.*

HARRY

That was real good. Next time give me a napkin. Makes me feel like I'm in a fancy restaurant.

EDNA

I'm glad you liked it.

HARRY

Steak is my favorite. You cooked it up real nice like.

EDNA

Harry, I need to go to the grocery store.

HARRY

Well I ain't got no money honey. Hell! That's a song.

EDNA

Huh?

HARRY

We used to sing it.

EDNA

When?

HARRY

When we were datin'.

EDNA

Not that I recall.

HARRY

Hell yea, we went dancin'to that song.

EDNA

That must have one of your other lady friends.

HARRY

You can clear up now and bring me my coffee.

EDNA

It's on the stove. I'll get it.

Exit

HARRY

Maybe that was somebody else.

EDNA

From off stage

You never talk about your other

HARRY

Nothin' to talk about. I don't stay where I'm not welcome. I show women respect until they disrespect me.

Enter Edna with coffee

EDNA

Here. It's the kind you like. I ground it myself.

HARRY

You sure make a good cup of coffee... ya' know... I think I've got a few dollars left I can give ya'.

EDNA

For groceries?

HARRY

Yea. I'll run you down later. This morning I'm fixin to start workin' on the patio again. Tomorrow or Monday I'll pour the concrete.

EDNA

Uh-huh.

HARRY

Then we'll have four.

EDNA

Four what?

HARRY

Patios. One on each side of the house. I've got a little more diggin' to do for this last one. Hated to take that Bird of Paradise bush out. I know you liked that.

EDNA

Nice views.

HARRY

Huh?

EDNA

From the patios. Nice views.

HARRY

Yea. You can see for miles. That's why I bought this place. No neighbors. Nothin' to spoil the views in every direction.

EDNA

I'd better clear up.

HARRY

You keep a mighty clean house.

EDNA

I do my best. My pa would get real angry if our house wasn't clean enough for him. It was difficult for my ma what with all the farm work.

HARRY

Good coffee.

EDNA

Glad you like it. Did you ever figure out what that bad smell was in the back yard?

HARRY

Smell?

EDNA

I told you about it.

HARRY

Oh yea. Probably the sceptic tank.

EDNA

Maybe. All I know is there's something rotten out there.

Pause

HARRY

I'll check it out. Which side?

EDNA

Where you...bur..built the last patio.

HARRY

You all right?

EDNA

I'm okay. No... I'm good... I'm ...really good.

HARRY

About time. I was gettin' sick of your mopin' about. Later on maybe I'll take you into town, to the Legion Hall. Cheer ya' up. Yes sir, Bingo on Thursdays. Fish Fry on Fridays. Dancin' on Saturday. It's a good life out here.

EDNA

That's where we met. Legion Hall. It's Saturday so there'll be dancin'. I like the dancin'. But you gotta get rid of that smell first. I can't take it no more.

HARRY

Okay. I've got a pile of cleaner in the garage...HF it's called. Dissolves anything. I'll pour some down the drain.

EDNA

Pause

Are ya' done with your coffee?

HARRY

I reckon so.

EDNA

Well, I best be makin' my list.

Pause

HARRY

I had another devil of a dream last night.

EDNA

I can't remember my dreams. Sometimes, I don't think I have any.

HARRY

I read somewhere that you should write em' down as soon as ya' wake up. This last one was a real humdinger. I was in this hotel, least I think it was a hotel. And there were elevators goin' up to the top floors...and they was open... no doors ...you'd have to jump to git on em'... I didn't know the room number so I went on up to the front desk and said "What's my room number?" The girl looked at me like she didn't know what I was talkin' bout. I think she was one of those retards ... they were all real weird behind that desk... one was asleep... all bent over...then she woke up, smiled and I'll be damned...her teeth were missing...all of 'em... but she wrote down the number of the room. So, I went back to the elevator but I couldn't jump on... my feet wouldn't move...like I was stuck in concrete or somethin'. Then I woke up.

EDNA

That's a mighty strange dream, alright.

HARRY

Yup!

EDNA

I'll get on with my chores.

HARRY

I've got to finish digging the foundation....

EDNA

Yeah....

HARRY

Oh, I almost forgot. I bought you a present.

EDNA

A present?

HARRY

Yeah... I think it's mighty important to keep romance alive in a marriage.

*Exits and returns with a brightly
packaged box and hands it to her.*

HARRY

Here.

EDNA

It sure is a pretty box.

HARRY

It was expensive.

EDNA

I can't think what's in it.

HARRY

The shop's called Cupid's Toy Box. Fancy name huh?

EDNA

Cupid's Toy Box? Hum...

She opens the box

What is it?

HARRY

It's a negligee.

EDNA

A negligee?

HARRY

Yeah... bring back a little romance into our lives...you best try it on.

EDNA

Won't keep a body very warm.

HARRY

That coffee must be stronger than usual. I'm feeling a bit dizzy.

EDNA

You shouldn't have wasted your money.

HARRY

Put it on.

EDNA

Now?

HARRY

Yea and get me some aspirin in the kitchen.

EDNA

I could catch cold in this.

Exits

HARRY

This growin' old ain't so good. I sure hope I'm not havin' a heart attack... my Daddy died of a heart attack... fifty-nine years old... one minute he was there... next minute he was gone....

She re-enters wearing the negligee over her clothes.

EDNA

It's too small. It doesn't fit.

HARRY

You can't tell if you try it on over your clothes. Try it on without your clothes.

EDNA

Well then I'll be damn near naked.

HARRY

That's the idea. It's for when you go to bed.

EDNA

Then why do you want me to put it on now?

HARRY

I want to see if it fits.

EDNA

Well it doesn't.

HARRY

Because you've got your clothes on.

EDNA

Seems stupid to me to waste money on stuff like this.

HARRY

Where's my aspirin? I'm sweating like a pig... dizzy too... Get me a glass of water too.

And move your ass...

EDNA

What?

HARRY

I said...hurry up. I'm not feelin' so good.

*Edna exits & re-enters with aspirin
& water.*

EDNA

Here.

HARRY

My feet are numb.

EDNA

They are?

HARRY

Yea.

Takes a handful of "aspirin"

EDNA

You taking all those?

HARRY

Why not.... ?

EDNA

Mmmm...

HARRY

I don't think I can get out of this chair.

EDNA

I think I know how I can help ya'.

Exits

HARRY

You'd better call the doctor.

Off-stage

EDNA

No phone. Remember? You didn't want one.

HARRY

Then go on over to the Morrisons.

Off-stage

EDNA

That's a mile away.

HARRY

You'll have to drive the truck.

Edna enters with two rolls of duck tape.

EDNA

No licence. Remember? You didn't want me drivin' your truck.

HARRY

My legs are numb and I can't move my hands.

EDNA

Here this will help.

She begins to tape him to the chair.

HARRY

What in the hell are ya' doing?

EDNA

I'm trying to help you. Give you some support.

HARRY

Support?

EDNA

Yea, support. Stop you from falling over.

HARRY

But I can't move.

EDNA

That's better isn't it? It'll keep you safe.

*Edna winds more and more tape
around him so he can't move.*

HARRY

What's wrong with my hands?

EDNA

Better tape those as well.

HARRY

Have you gone crazy woman?

EDNA

No Harry. It's the most sensible thing I've done in a long time.

HARRY

But I can't move.

EDNA

That's the idea.

Struggling

HARRY

Get me out of this chair...NOW!

EDNA

Just keep calm.

Harry tries to move the chair

Oh, I'm sorry, I forgot about your feet.

She tapes his feet to the chair.

There ya' go.

HARRY

What in God's name are you doin' Edna?

*He struggles more and more feebly
to free himself.*

EDNA

I'm looking after myself Harry. It's the one thing my mother taught me. After she died I had to look after my pa. He'd have these angry fits over nothin' and expected me to wait on him hand and foot. Never would give me any money - not even for food. Then he died, we lost the farm and I had to look after myself...I did just fine and got me a job in the local store.

HARRY

What are you goin' on about?

EDNA

You're a heavy man.

HARRY

Edna, I'm feelin' real bad. Stop this game, please?

EDNA

I'm sorry.

HARRY

Why are you doin' this to me?

EDNA

Because I know you were gonna kill me.

HARRY

Kill you?

EDNA

Yeah... like the rest.

HARRY

The rest?

EDNA

The lady friends you had before I came along.

HARRY

That is the stupidest thing I've ever heard you say!

EDNA

Oh yea? I may sound stupid but I'm not. That smell is one of them bodies.

HARRY

Huh? That's the drains.

EDNA

And those bags of clothes in the shed?

HARRY

What about em'?

EDNA

Women's things.

HARRY

So what? They were just left behind.

EDNA

Nope. I don't think so. One thing a woman always takes with her when she leaves is her clothes. Besides, those things are too expensive to just leave behind.

HARRY

You're fuckin' mad.

EDNA

Mad enough to marry you.

HARRY

Get this tape off of me.

EDNA

I don't think so.

HARRY

When I get out of this I'm gonna smash your fuckin' face in.

EDNA

You wouldn't have the strength even if you did get loose.

HARRY

What are you talking about?

EDNA

Half a dozen pain pills.

HARRY

Jesus!

EDNA

And the coffee? Did you know Harry that almost every plant in the desert is poisonous? Remember when my dog ate the seeds from that bird of paradise plant? It died. It took a while though. Poor thing.

HARRY

Look, I'm sorry Edna. I didn't mean to scare you. Just let me go.

EDNA

Acting nice now are you? Like you was before we got married. You paid attention to me back then. Nobody had ever paid that much attention to me before.

HARRY

This is all just a mistake. I can give you the addresses of my past women friends and you'll find out they're all just fine.

EDNA

You keep their addresses do you? You know where they live? My problem is I'm far too trustin'. My mama said that.

HARRY

Get me out of this chair Edna. A joke is a joke.

EDNA

Nope. You're not well Harry. I figured that out...you're sick. I saw you puttin' on some of them women's dresses and dancin' around.

HARRY

It's just something I do for fun sometimes. That don't do nobody no harm.

EDNA

That may be the first truthful thing you've said. But you're a misfit Harry. I know a misfit when I see one. I knew something was mighty wrong around here.

Harry struggles as much as he can

HARRY

There's nothing wrong. Now, get this shit off of me.

EDNA

I'm tired of listenin' to you Harry.

Puts tape round his mouth

I'm tired of your voice.

Harry makes more effort to move in his chair. Edna pulls a plastic bag out of her back pocket and snaps it open.

Tired of looking at ya' too...

She places the bag over Harry head

You're sick.

She pulls the string round the bag.

I reckon' it's me or you and I don't care to be buried under the patio along with your other lady friends.

Harry keeps struggling for a while as he runs out of air.

I'll enjoy living here. I always wanted my own place in the country. Watch the sunsets...not have to work all day. I'll be cooking and cleaning just the same but I won't have to take orders from you. Oh and Harry, I took a peek at your bank book. Quite a little squirrel you were. A good job I learned to do your signature. I won't have to beg you for money anymore either. I'll be just fine. I might even get one of those new cordless phones.

Later on I'll probably go for a vacation. Oh and Harry, I know all about that stuff you've got in the shed that dissolves anything you want. If anyone asks I'll just say you ran off with some woman and I don't know where you went. Maybe I should say a prayer for you but ...I don't think I'll bother.

She stands behind Harry's chair and starts to move it.

Good thing you dug that hole for the new patio. Mixin' a bit of concrete ain't that hard.

There's a loud knocking on the door.

FEMALE VOICE

Harry? Harry? It's me. I've come to pick up my clothes. Sorry it took so long. Harry?

Edna looks around frantically and is rooted to the spot and stares straight out at audience. Lights out.