

FRED' S MAL RETREAT

A ONE ACT PLAY

by

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Cast of characters

Fred: a handsome dwarf in his
middle thirties birdy's husband

Birdy: a large tall unattractive woman
in her middle forties, Fred's wife

Jolly: an attractive woman in her middle
twenties matthews wife

Matthew: a handsome man in his early 30's
Jolly's husband

Scene

A pitch black room with one light

Time

1980's

Act 1

Scene 1

SETTING: We are in Fred's writing room, pitch black, floor lamp is on and hovers above Fred. Room smells of old gym socks, smoke, bourbon bottle and short glass sits on desk next to typewriter.

AT RISE: Theatre is black with only a typewriter being heard. Spot light comes on Fred typing away at a frantic pace. You start to hear from stage left Jolly and stage right Matthews voices. They are loud and in a heated argument. They are both off stage and Fred does not "hear or recognize them."

Jolly
(shouting)

Matthew we have talked about this already!

Matthew
(shouting)

Yes we have, but apparently we have to go over this yet once again!

Jolly

(shouting, upset)

Matthew, seriously stop, and listen to yourself, it's midnight and we are to this point. I am just not sure Matthew, just not sure!

Matthew

Jolly it's going to be ok, you just need to take a step back and look at the bigger picture.

Jolly

(shouting)

Matthew I am seeing the big picture, always have and I am concerned that we are not on the same page!

Matthew

(shouting)

Jolly! We have been together now three years we have been through a lot.

Jolly

Three years! Matthew you do not even know how long we have been together! This is exactly the stuff I am talking about!

Matthew

Jolly two or three years is not important, to me it seems like we have been together 8 or 10 years darling.

Jolly

Matthew I just don't know, things just don't seem to be the same these days and I am seriously concerned!

(Blackout)

Act 1

Scene 2

SETTING: Same as scene 1

AT RISE: Fred is sitting at his desk and he stops typing. (Matthew and Jolly are silent) Fred finishes off his last gulp of bourbon from his short glass, he sits back in his swivel chair and stares at the typewriter. (Birdy's voice is heard off stage right) a loud terrifying deep tone voice, it radiates anger. Fred pours himself another bourbon and is seen putting his elbows on his little desk with his head in his hands.

Birdy
(voice only)

Fred!! Fred! You better not be on that typewriter!

Fred
(loud voice)

No dear! I am just taking care of some of our bills.

Birdy

I thought I heard your fat little stubby fingers hitting those little typewriter keys!

Fred

No dear, you heard me looking in my desk for a pen and envelope to send our bills off with, tomorrow is monday and they need to be sent off.

Birdy

(loud)

I don't know why you you even bother yourself with that little writing of yours, you are wasting your time. No more than a fantasy!

Fred

yes dear you're right

(Birdy is silent)

Fred goes back to typing away.

Matthew and jolly are arguing off stage again

Fred does not "hear them"

Matthew

(loud)

Jolly please let me explain to you my thinking in this matter.

Jolly

(loud)

oh my matthew , I can't wait to hear this one!

Matthew

Jolly! Let me talk!

Jolly

Matthew I am not really sure I want to listen to this anymore! I am tired.

(Fred is typing a fast pace; matthew enters stage left, Jolly enters stage right at the same time) onto the stage they come walking toward each other and meet in the middle of the stage where they face each other. Matthew is seen taking Jollys hand into his. Fred is typing the entire time Jolly and Matthew are talking. Fred only is not typing when they are not talking. They are never "recognized or seen" by Fred.

Matthew

Jolly I do not like when we fight, it makes these types of situations a lot worse.

Jolly

Honey, communication has to be key in our relationship, I have always said this, we need to remember where, and how far we have come. Today is another day where silence won, and the inevitable happens with this type of breakdown.

Matthew

Jolly some people need conflict in their relationships, but I am not one of those people. I have always felt that together you and I can move through just about anything.

(Matthew and Jolly are silent and move closer to each other, matthew has Jollys hand and pulls her towards him. Birdy is now heard off stage right yelling at Fred again, her voice sounds similar to terror)

(Blackout)

Act 1

Scene 3

SETTING: Same as scene 2

AT RISE: Birdy is screaming off stage,
She seems to be livid at Fred.
Fred is seen pouring another
bourbon and shaking his head.
Fred is only one on stage.

Birdy
(very loud)

Fred I heard them typewriter keys clicking away. I am
telling you for the last time, no typewriter!

Fred
(shouting to be heard)
Honey you are hearing me rummage through my desk.

(Just as Fred ends his sentence,
Birdy comes storming out of stage
right, she is BIG, and wearing a
yellow one piece jump suit, she
resembles big bird from sesame
street and is wearing thick coke
bottle lense glasses)

Birdy

(EXTREMELY enraged and LOUD)

what did you say to me little boy! You better know better than to talk back to me. You know what happens when you talk back to Big Birdy!

Fred

(seeming quite afraid)

Honey now please , you know that I am telling you the truth. I would never try and deceive my big yellow sweety.

(Birdy seems to be around 6'8" tall, she is towering over Fred, her hand is raised above her head to indicate how much she is fed up with Fred)

Birdy

I have had it up to hear

Fred

Honey, please there is no reason to be so upset.

Birdy

(Birdy's face is red as a turnip, and she is cowering over fred)

Upset! You think this is upset! This is about a 4 on a scale of 10!

Fred

(Voice cracking, he seems to be scared)

Please honey, I had to go through my desk and I was organizing it.

Birdy

(pointing at and poking on the typewriter)

I know you were writing on that there typewriter! Don't you lie to me boy! I ain't got no idea why you waste so much

time on that thing, you will never make it as a writer of any kind, only thing you're going to be writin on is bathroom walls. You are the most pathetic little dwarf that will never make anything of himself.

Fred

(visibly shaking sitting in his little chair and looking up at Birdy)

What have you done with your life Birdy? Give me one thing that you have done or tried to do or gave a serious effort in trying to achieve? Your fashion sense and ability to swallow large amounts of whole food don't count neither!

(Birdy raises her hand and with one large swoop of her massive elephantitis hand she slaps Fred so hard that he can be seen falling out of his chair onto the floor)

(Blackout)

Act 1

Scene 4

SETTING: Same as last three scenes

AT RISE:

Fred is on floor next to the little desk with typewriter, Birdy is off stage, Jolly and matthew are back on stage frozen in middle of front stage. Fred gathers himself and slowly climbs back into his chair.
Matthew and Jolly's

conversation only starts once
Fred starts typing again.

Matthew

(Holding Jollys hand)

Jolly this is just a little bump in the road.

Jolly

Matthew little bumps add up to large bumps in the road
though.

Matthew

Jolly we have it, you know it and I know it, relationships
are not all perfect, we will have times when it's tough and
times when it's great. But I will stand by your side and
hold your hand through it all. You are my little light in a
vast empty sea of darkness, you are my lighthouse when it
gets too dark to sea. But you are my one and only that I
want to sea when I get to the shore.

Jolly

(wrapped around Matthew's arms)

Matthew this is one of the many reasons that I love you and
want to spend the rest of my life with you, to have such a
caring, loving, thoughtful man on my side makes life seem not
so bleak.

(Fred has now stopped typing,
Matthew and Jolly are Froze and
Silent. Fred is seen finishing his
glass of Bourbon, and putting his
elbows on the desk with his head in
his hands)

(lights Fade) (The End)

