

Perspective

a short play by
Peter M. Floyd

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

THE MAN, male, 25-40

THE WOMAN, female, 25-40

THE OTHER MAN, male, 25-40

SCENE: A bedroom, present day

Lights come up on the bedroom in the apartment of the MAN and WOMAN. Their bed faces the audience; on each side is a small table. Several dressers and bookshelves line the walls.

It is about 11:00 on a Sunday morning. THE MAN and THE WOMAN are stretched out in the bed. THE WOMAN is in a nightgown, while THE MAN wears shorts and a t-shirt. She is reading the Arts section of the Sunday Times, while he does the crossword puzzle in the Times Magazine. Various other pieces of the Times lay scattered about the bed.

Several moments pass, and then THE WOMAN puts down her paper and looks at THE MAN.

WOMAN

This is nice.

MAN (*still immersed in his puzzle*)

What is?

WOMAN

This. Just lying around on a Sunday morning and not doing anything. It feels wonderfully lazy.

MAN

I'm doing something.

WOMAN

Doing the crossword is not really a hugely productive activity.

MAN

It stimulates the brain. Who starred in *Charade*?

WOMAN

Audrey Hepburn.

MAN

Doesn't fit. Five letters.

WOMAN

Grant. Cary Grant.

MAN

Thanks.

WOMAN

It's just been a long time since we've done this. Just have a quiet Sunday morning at home in bed.

MAN

We do this all the time.

WOMAN

We don't! We never do. We always have to go off somewhere, like your parents' or something.

MAN

No, really, I think we spend more Sundays in than not.

WOMAN

I don't think so.

MAN

You know, it's like in *Manhattan*, when Woody Allen and Diane Keaton both get asked how often they have sex. Woody says, "Hardly ever, maybe three times a week," and Keaton says, "Constantly, like three times a week." To me, it seems like we lie in on Sundays all the time, to you it doesn't. It's just a matter of perspective.

WOMAN

Annie Hall.

MAN

What?

WOMAN

That scene you're talking about, it's from *Annie Hall*, not *Manhattan*.

MAN

Well, there you go. You remember it from *Annie Hall*, and I remember it from *Manhattan*. Perspective again.

WOMAN

But-- No, that's not right. It's either in one movie or the other. That's not perspective, it's a fact. One of us has to be wrong.

MAN

Okay.

WOMAN

And it's you.

MAN

If you want to think so.

WOMAN

God! I hate it when you get like this!

MAN

Like what?

WOMAN

Where you sound like you're being all reasonable, but you're talking bullshit.

MAN

Well, I'm just saying what seems reasonable to me. I understand that may not be what's reasonable to you.

WOMAN

And then you get all patronizing. *(pause)* Kim was right.

MAN

About what?

WOMAN

After the two of us started dating, and I introduced you to all my friends, Kim pulled me aside and said, "I think he's a little patronizing."

MAN

Huh.

FOR FULL SCRIPT, CONTACT PMFLOYD01@GMAIL.COM