

WALLY
ALVIN

20

I LOVE MY WIFE

ACT I

ALVIN. Forget it, who am I kidding? Even if I wanted to try a community of three, where would I find the two girls?

WALLY. What two girls? You've got one already!

ALVIN. You mean *Cleo*? My wife? Oh, no, she'd never go for it, she'd feel cheated!

WALLY. Why? For her it's no less it's only more for you, think of it. (ALVIN *does*.) Your wife is one, then any one of her girlfriends.

ALVIN. (*Shaking his head*.) No, she'd never go for it.

WALLY. She will if you explain it right! Talk to her about humanity, the broad spectrum of the love experience, then when you've got her going you say, "Cleo, I'm very much in love with you but I get the feeling when we're making love that you're a little bored." Get it, you put it on *her*, she's bored! Then you say, "How would you like the two of us to be three?" And you explain it's just a physical arrangement because she's the only one you're in love with! It would probably be a big lift to her morale.

ALVIN. You mean I'd be doing it with the other girl for Cleo's morale?

WALLY. Exactly! I'll bet she'll thank you for thinking of it!

ALVIN. I don't know, she might get mad, I mean how would you like it if Monica suddenly decided to join a community of three?

WALLY. I wouldn't bat an eye! Monica's a free agent, she can do as she pleases.

ALVIN. She can?

WALLY. Absolutely! She finds herself a little setup like that, I say go to it! Because we're *today* people! Now what you do is give Cleo a little bit of that broad spectrum stuff then start going through the list of her best-looking girlfriends!

ALVIN. Well, if it's okay with you . . .

WALLY. What's it got to do with me?

ALVIN. Never mind.

CLEO
+
ALVIN

CLEO. What is the matter with you tonight?

ALVIN. Nothing, I just wanted to tell you that I love you very much but you're boring in bed. By that I mean I feel you're sometimes bored with me!

CLEO. Not in the least. Whatever gave you that idea?

ALVIN. Because there's always just the two of us! There's never anyone else.

CLEO. All right, I'll move the bed into the street.

ALVIN. Cleo, I am not joking, I am talking about humanity! If we're always together, just the two of us, we're cutting our-

selves off from the broad spectrum of human relationships.

CLEO. Alvin, what are you getting at?

ALVIN. (*Blurting it out.*) That the two of us ought to be three!

CLEO. Alvin! Darling! I'll stop taking those pills tomorrow! (*As he tries to stop her.*) We'll have a summer baby, a little Leo!

ALVIN. No, no, you misunderstand, I didn't mean anything about little Leo's . . .

CLEO. What is it then? (*Suspiciously.*) Alvin, don't tell me it's a dog you want. I've already told you the apartment is too small . . .

ALVIN. I would like to have a multiple love experience!

CLEO. With a dog?

ALVIN. With a human being.

CLEO. What sort of human being?

ALVIN. A perfectly ordinary everyday run-of-the-mill female human being.

CLEO. So that's it! You want to make love to another girl in front of me!

ALVIN. Not in front of you . . . With you!

CLEO. Two girls at the same time? You? How?

ALVIN. Are you upset? (*Fresh outburst.*) Cleo, I have to be honest! The situation is more desperate than you think. You need help!

CLEO. But I'm perfectly happy the way we are!

ALVIN. So am I. And it's that happiness that's wrecking our marriage!

CLEO. How?

ALVIN. Because we're not sharing it with the rest of humanity! Not to mention the broad spectrum of the love experience.

CLEO. What are you talking about?

ALVIN. That two is finished, kaput, and the only two people left eating yesterday's fish are you and me. Cleo, make up your mind. Do you want to be part of the *today* people or not?

CLEO. Well, of course I do but . . .

ALVIN. Now you're talking. And don't think you're the only wife urging her husband to try a community of three, all over the state, the country, the world, repressed women are breaking loose like jungle beasts! This is a revolt, Cleo! Get with it! Shape up or ship out.

(I love my
wife)

~~WALLY. But I have shoes already.~~

~~MONICA. Not like these.~~

WALLY. Can I open it?

MONICA. Well, you can open this one because you guessed. But not the others!

WALLY. I'm so excited, you shouldn't have, another pair of shoes . . . *(He opens box, looks inside, for a moment he is speechless.)* Oh. Oh my oh my.

MONICA. Take them out of the box.

WALLY. I'm afraid to. I mean I'm afraid I'll want to put them on right away.

MONICA. Then put them on. *(And he takes a pair of bright fire-engine red high top shoes with a four-inch heel out of box.)* I told you you didn't have any like these.

WALLY. No. Nobody does.

MONICA. They're the latest style.

WALLY. Oh, later than that. And the heel! I mean you certainly got your money's worth.

MONICA. That's flame red.

WALLY. Flame. What a good idea. What size is it?

MONICA. *(As he tries to jam his foot into the boot.)* 9½.

WALLY. *(Struggling.)* It must be a small 9½. I usually take a large 9½. That's why I always buy a 10½ to make sure the 9½ is large enough.

MONICA. Does it fit?

WALLY. Perfectly! I don't even feel the shoe. I don't even feel the whole leg . . .

MONICA. Put the other one on.

WALLY. I am! Why should one foot have all the pleasure.

MONICA. Wally, they look wonderful! How do they feel?

WALLY. *(Staggering around, holding onto furniture.)* As good as they look. Monica, I'm very much in love with you . . .

MONICA. Now let me see one of my presents!

WALLY. *(Lurching to chair, removing shoes.)* All right, but just one.

MONICA. *(Taking large package.)* Oh, I'm so excited. And the wrapping is so beautiful! *(Feeling through paper.)* It feels like fur! It's a coat, it's a stole . . . *(She opens it. It is orange.)* It's a back pack.

WALLY. It's for next summer when we go on vacation. I hated to see you carry all those suitcases last year. You know how much it holds fully loaded? 125 pounds! Do you like it?

MONICA. *(As she shoves wrapping paper inside pack.)* I'm crazy about it, I've been dying to have one for years, where's the sales slip?

WALLY. What for?

MONICA. In case it's the wrong size, but I'm crazy about it! *(She kisses him.)* Oh, Wally, isn't this the best time of year? I always loved Christmas when I was a kid, but now that we're together, just the two of us, it's the most wonderful holiday of all!