

THE SLEEP OVER

SYNOPSIS

PENNY and ARTHUR, a married couple, receive a letter from GEORGE. PENNY is furious and makes a fateful decision.

THE SLEEP OVER

Cast of Characters

PENNY (PEN) JORDAN.....attractive woman; 22-35

ARTHUR (ART) JORDAN.....her husband; 25-40

Scene

The living room of the Jordans' home.

Time

The 1930's.

SETTING

The Jordans live in a middle class home. The room is simply furnished. There is a telephone c. 1920-1930 on an end table.

AT RISE

It is early evening. PENNY is sitting on a sofa or easy chair, reading a newspaper or magazine as ARTHUR enters.

THE SLEEP OVER

ART

(ART enters, SL, carrying a letter-sized envelope)

Hi, Honey.

PEN

Hi. I see you found George's letter.

ART

Yeah. Haven't heard from him for a while.

PEN

Humm-ff. Doesn't seem that long to me. I know; I know. He's your dear friend. But, really, for him to stretch that week-end visit to almost a month---I thought I'd go mad.

ART

Well....

PEN

Let me get you a drink. I've got some martinis in the ice box.

(PEN exits SR. ART opens letter; reads it; smiles; tucks letter into pocket. PEN enters with two martinis)

PEN

Here you are, dear. Happy Days.

ART

Chin-chin.

(They both drink)

PEN

Do tell---what did good old George have to say?

ART

Uh, he's...actually, he's coming to town. He's lined up an employment interview. The Anglican Church does need a choir master and he'd be perfect for the job. Then, while he's in town, he thought he'd check out some other openings...

PEN

I see. George is coming to town. He's going to be here several days. Just when does he arrive?

ART

Uh, tomorrow.

PEN

Tomorrow! Oh, how could you? And where, pray tell, will he be staying?

ART

Now, Pen; don't get upset. The fact is---I invited George to come stay with us.

PEN

You what? You invited him---without asking me? Without even telling me until the man is practically walking thru the door? Oh, Arthur, how could you? You know how I feel about him....

ART

Oh, it won't be so bad. He can sleep in your sewing room, like he did last time. He said that sofa-bed was really comfortable.

PEN

No! I've got patterns laid out just the way I want them. And I'm forcing some tomato plants. And---and---I just won't

have it. I moved all my things into our bedroom the last time he was here. I simply won't go thru all that again.

ART

Well, what's to be done?

PEN

That's up to you. Anything to keep from moving my belongings again.

ART

Gee, Pen, I'm kind of lost here....

PEN

Well, I'm not. So long as George is here, I'm going to sleep in my sewing room.

ART

But---that would mean than George and I would have to share our bed!

PEN

Sorry. You've made your bed...

ART

OK, OK; and now I'll have to lie in it. Well, I don't like the idea but guess there's no other way.

PEN

And don't think you can come "visit" me. You can't touch me for as long as George is in this house. And maybe longer. I hope this will be a lesson for you, Mr. Jordan. Maybe it will teach you to be more considerate---and to ASK me before you invite someone to stay in our home.

(PEN exit SR)

ART

(ART picks up phone; jiggles the hook; speaks)

Operator? Give me Long Distance, please. Long Distance? I'd like to place a station-to-station call to Valparaiso, Indiana. (Note: the town's name is pronounced Val-pa-RAY-so) The number is 927M. Yes; I'll wait.

(Brief pause. ART takes out letter; looks at it)

Ah! Hi, George. Glad I got you. Yes, all clear here. Penny'll sleep in the sewing room. Yeah, it was her suggestion. Means you and I will have to share a bed. See you tomorrow, darling.

BLACKOUT