

Seven Hundred Dollar Shoes

By

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prompt: 2 person sketch
close relationship

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ACT I

Scene 1

Couple is sitting down having dinner at a restaurant.

HUSBAND

So, how's the fish, Sweetie Pumpkin?

WIFE

Not bad, Sugar Doodle. How was work today?

HUSBAND

The usual, Lovey Num-num. Boy, Rob really screwed up a...

WIFE

(slides a receipt across the table)

What's this, Honey Bunny?

HUSBAND

I don't know, um, Cuddle-Muffin.

(picks it up)

Never seen it before.

WIFE

(calmly eating)

No, Snuggly-poo? It has your credit card number and signature on it. Women's shoes? A 700 dollar pair of Jimmy Choo women's shoes? Anything you want to tell me about?

HUSBAND

Um, Sweetie Toodles, uh, it was for Dave at work. A present for his wife's birthday, he was short on cash so I fronted him.

WIFE

(shakes her head)

He bought her earrings. I saw them. They were nice. Try again, Nummy-NumbNuts.

HUSBAND

Surprise! Happy Early Birthday, Sweetie...!

WIFE

Cut the "Sweetie Pie" crap. Where are the shoes, Matthew? It says they were delivered to 7422 S. Fourth St. three weeks ago.

(CONTINUED)

HUSBAND

OK, OK, you've got me, OK? I'm having an affair! And it's freaking killing me! "Buy me this...buy me that...yes, I have one already but I don't have a red one! Oh, wouldn't two of those look nice side by side?" I swear to God, it's like having another wife. I spend all my money on her and I'm still not getting what I want!

WIFE

And what you want is...?

HUSBAND

You know damned well what I want! Hell, if you'd just roll over every once in a while, we wouldn't even have this problem!

WIFE

"We?" "We" don't have a problem, honey, YOU have a problem.

(pause)

And where is the money for all of these things coming from?

HUSBAND

Well, I've had to sell a few things. On eBay, you know. Way below retail.

WIFE

Like what? Is that where my priceless antique coffee pot went? You said it was out being replated.

HUSBAND

...well, technically, it is. The buyer insisted...

WIFE

You jerk! Oh my God, how could you!? And my furs?

HUSBAND

You never wore them.

WIFE

My golf clubs?

HUSBAND

You never play golf. And by the way, where are my golf clubs? I haven't seen them lately.

WIFE

Oh, they're GONE. They are SO gone. And, by the way, so are your goddammed "Golden Age" comic books. And that stupid old beat up guitar.

(CONTINUED)

HUSBAND

STUPID OLD BEAT UP GUITAR?! THAT WAS A 1954 VINTAGE FENDER STRAT! It was worth over \$10,000.

(desperate)

Please tell me you're kidding -- I know you're kidding, I picked it up the other day, I would have noticed if the case was empty!

WIFE

No, of course, the case isn't empty. I'm not stupid. Some guy paid me \$500 for it online. He was SO happy - he even used Buy It Now! Then, I replaced the one in your case with one from Best Buy. It looks exactly the same and it only cost \$99.

HUSBAND

(near tears)

Looks exactly...they make those in Mexico, that's why they're only \$99! What were you thinking!?

WIFE

Well, Mr. "I'm not getting what I want", I have not been getting what I want either. Not for a long, long time.

HUSBAND

Oh no, not that again.

WIFE

Oh yes, that again. And Brad doesn't just do it, he enjoys it. He really enjoys it. He's like a kid in a candy store...

HUSBAND

Oh, yeah? Oh, yeah? Well, you should see Candy when she...

WIFE

Candy? Oh, please! Candy?!

HUSBAND

What's wrong with Candy? It's a perfectly good name. She spells it with a 'y', not an 'i'. Wait a minute, why are you selling my things? What do you need money for?

WIFE

Well, Brad has a gambling thing going on. And he drinks. A lot.

HUSBAND

So, you're selling my things and giving this guy a beer allowance? Just so you can get...you know...

(CONTINUED)

WIFE

At least he let the maid go, that saved some money.

HUSBAND

You were paying for his maid?

WIFE

For a while. But now that I'm doing all the cooking and cleaning...

HUSBAND

Now that you're what? Let's see if I have this right: he's got you cooking and cleaning and she's got me furnishing her apartment. This is insane.

WIFE

You're right. It's insane. And expensive.

HUSBAND

Well, at least we caught it before all the money's gone. We still have the 401K.

WIFE

Um, no. No, we don't. It went for some vintage cars and a pinball machine. But we still have the kids' college money.

HUSBAND

Bad news on that one, too. Two diamond necklaces and a new toaster.

WIFE

Our vacation condo?

HUSBAND

She thought it was cute so I gave it to her. The investment art in the front room?

WIFE

Some kid at the community college made copies for me. Brad's got the originals in his basement.

HUSBAND

None of this makes any sense. We're destroying ourselves financially.

WIFE

You know, maybe we could work things out. I guess once in a while wouldn't be so bad.

HUSBAND

Yeah, we don't seem to have a lot of options. And if I really focused, I guess I could, you know, put up with it. On birthdays and holidays or something...

(CONTINUED)

*A few beats of silent deliberation, then they look
at each other excited.*

WIFE

I just got a great idea.

HUSBAND

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

WIFE

I think so...

HUSBAND AND WIFE IN UNISON

Home equity loan!