

ORGAN RECITAL

By Jerry Rabushka

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CAST

KAREN and JIM, practically engaged, out at a nice restaurant on a romantic dinner.

LADY 1 and LADY 2, two elderly women with a propensity for discussing medical problems in gleefully gruesome detail.

SETTING: The “finest restaurant in town.” JIM and KAREN are seated together, and the two ladies are at the table next to them. Much of the food and props can be pantomimed, however some dishes and silverware are recommended.

****The two conversations often take place simultaneously at two different tables.***

KAREN: ***(looking at JIM romantically)*** Oh, Jim, I'm so happy you finally took me to the Flaming Crabcake!

JIM: ***(takes her hand, looks into her eyes, as the ladies at the next table look on, but also having a silent conversation of their own)***
Just you and me, all alone.

KAREN: No brothers, no sisters...

JIM: No moms and dads...

KAREN: And this food looks fabulous!

JIM: ***(mushy)*** Only the best for my best girl!

(They're just about to take a bite, when they overhear the other table.)

LADY 1: Looks like they're going to have to slice him open.

LADY 2: Oh, another intestinal problem?

(This, of course, changes their minds, and they put the silverware down, unable to eat.)

LADY 1: I know. If it's not the intestines, it's the spleen. I thought there was nothing worse than an intestinal worm colony until this spleen problem cropped up.

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KAREN: **(to JIM, quietly)** Oh, that's appetizing. I waited for weeks to come here and now I get an intestinal worm colony.

JIM: Ignore it. **(trying to get her attention back to him)** I'm here with you, and nothing's going to take away from our evening out! **(HE's just TOO romantic)** In fact, there's a special reason why I asked you here...

KAREN: Other than the crab soufflé?

JIM: Well... I do love the crab soufflé. But I also love-

KAREN: **(SHE interrupts him, and HE's a bit disappointed)** Me too! Let's share a piece...

LADY 1: I remember now...

KAREN: ...as a token of our-

LADY 1: It was his hypothalamus. Then, they had to do this risky and delicate brain surgery.

LADY 2: My brother had one of those. They took his eye out, put it on a table, and then after the surgery they put it back in.

(again, JIM and KAREN find themselves unable to eat)

LADY 1: They did?

LADY 2: They did! **(KAREN tries real quickly to eat, but...)** Then they put it in backwards, and he was looking at his own brain! That's when he noticed the surgery was botched.

LADY 1: Eye out? **(...KAREN just can't eat)**

LADY 2: That's what he said. **(insistent)** They took his eye out and put it on the table-

JIM: **(calling over to the other table)** Will you stop that?

KAREN: **(trying to hush him up, almost a whisper)** Quiet! Don't talk to them!

JIM: **(too loud for KAREN's comfort)** It's gross! I can't very well eat a lobster bisque with her talking about eyes on the table.

KAREN: They boil the lobster live! What's grosser than that?

JIM: And I really can't eat these scallops! They're looking at me.

LADY 1: **(to the others, conversational but cautionary)** My nephew ate a lobster bisque here and he wound up vomiting all night long. It was bright red. All night long. Every room of the house was full of bright... red....

LADY 2: Didn't he swallow the lobster whole?

LADY 1: ...vomit.

KAREN: I don't see any lobster in here! This is cheap bisque.

LADY 2: **(warning KAREN)** I wouldn't risk the bisque.

LADY 1: **(dreamy)** Oh listen to them, though. Young people in love!

JIM: Don't listen to us! Our conversation isn't your business. And I really wish yours wasn't ours! Keep your eyes in your head.

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LADY 1: **(with hands clasped)** It's so romantic, though. Well, not the eye thing, I mean the two of you!

LADY 2: Yes! **(down memory lane)** My cousin got proposed to here.

LADY 1: **(to JIM)** Are you going to marry her, young man? **(silence, SHE gets stern)** Young man...?

KAREN: **(curious as well)** Well, are you?

JIM: **(defensive)** Well, I did want to at least discuss it!

LADY 2: My cousin, Ardeelia? The one who got proposed to... **(JIM tries to eat, but during this speech, changes his mind)** She had the most awful things happen after she got married. Operations, amputations, and then there was that ooze thing out her nose. Went on for weeks. One nostril, then the other, then back to the first. They never could stop it.

KAREN: **(had enough)** Will you shut up? I'm trying to eat my bisque and my soufflé!

JIM: We're here on a romantic dinner. Can you pipe down on the organ recital?

LADY 1: Well, it's on my mind. I'm recovering from a gall bladder operation. With complications. Horrible complications.

LADY 2: A bleeding ulcer.

LADY 1: A urinary tract infection.

LADY 2: And various other female disorders – **(to KAREN)** You should never know the trouble I've had.

KAREN: I wish I didn't, but you've told me all too much! I just want to eat in peace!

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