

## **Husbands and Wives**

FADE IN:

Michael and Sally walk up to her house after their date.

MICHAEL

Tonight was fun, Sally, eh?

SALLY

Yes, it was good, it was good....

MICHAEL

And that music was fantastic...

SALLY

I usually hate Mahler, but it was good. The last movement was too long, I think he should have cut it down. The second movement was good. Well, you know, it began well...

MICHAEL

Yeah, it...it started a little bit....

SALLY

....then it gets sentimental, don't you think?

MICHAEL

Yeah.

SALLY

The conductor fought his way out. Dinner was wonderful, although I should teach the chef how to make an alfredo sauce. Didn't quite make it.

MICHAEL

Oh, I'm sorry you didn't like it.

They get to the door.

SALLY

You want to....?

MICHAEL

Yeah, I mean, is it ok?

SALLY  
Coffee...?

MICHAEL  
I'd love to.

SALLY  
(yawns)  
Oh – I'm only yawning 'cause I'm hyper-oxygenating because the car ride home just made me a little bit sick.

MICHAEL  
I'm sorry, Sally, I'm not the greatest driver in the world.

SALLY  
No, your driving was fine, for the most part. It's not your fault. I shouldn't have had that last margarita. Three's my limit.

MICHAEL  
I couldn't even finish the second. Ah, this is lovely. English pine. That's the finest.

SALLY  
I prefer French. My decorator screwed me. Any way, it's too big for one person. I have to get a place in town. It's funny how your whole life changes. I'm scared here alone.

MICHAEL  
Oh, you must be, sure.....

SALLY  
There've been robberies....

MICHAEL  
Yeah, I bet. Er, d'you want to get married again straight away, Sally, or do you like being single?

SALLY

I love being single.

MICHAEL

Because I think certain personalities just need to be married.

SALLY

I disagree.

MICHAEL

Well, that's what they say.

SALLY

Not me. I thought I did.

MICHAEL

I do. I do. I think it's time for me.

SALLY

So, why have you never got married?

MICHAEL

Oh, I don't know. I got close in my 20's once, but it didn't work out.

She gets out a bottle.

SALLY

Is wine ok?

MICHAEL

Oh, lovely, thank you.

SALLY

I want to be alone for a while at least. I want to have a few experiences. If it happens, great. If not, that's just fine.

MICHAEL

Well, I'm sure you'll get what you want. You're a very beautiful woman.

SALLY

Oh, thank you.

He kisses her. She breaks away.

SALLY

I can't. I can't go so fast.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry.

SALLY

It's just, you know.....metabolically, it's not my rhythm.

MICHAEL

I understand.

SALLY

Thank you. I haven't been in a social situation that's meant anything to me in a very long time.

MICHAEL

Thank you, Sally. I'm really glad to know you care.

SALLY

Well, I would not be here with you if I wasn't at least interested in exploring it.

MICHAEL

Well, cheers.

SALLY

Cheers.

They clink glasses.

MICHAEL

Tonight's meant a lot to me, Sally. Thank you.

SALLY

Lovely. That's nice.

He goes in for another kiss, more aggressively. She breaks off again.

MICHAEL  
OK, OK.....

SALLY  
What's the rush?

MICHAEL  
I'm sorry, I apologize, I'm just....I'm overanxious  
because I like you a lot.

SALLY  
Oh, dear. Michael, what can I say? I haven't made  
love in such a long time. My marriage, I told you,  
was dead. For years. I don't know why. Oh, yes  
I do. The second law of thermodynamics. Sonner  
or later, everything turns to shit. That's my phrasing,  
not the Encyclopedia Brittanica's.

MICHAEL  
Strange, because often one doesn't even see it happening.

SALLY  
I did. That's the part that kills me. I was in town  
working. Jack was supposed to be out of town on  
business in Chicago. All of a sudden, by sheer  
accident, I see Jack across the street in Victoria's  
Secret, buying lingerie. I couldn't bring it up. I  
was so hurt, and so full of rage. And scared. For  
weeks, you know, I waited for him to say he'd met  
someone, but he never did. Although I was suspic-  
ious, I never found another incident. So I chose to  
overlook it and I hoped it would go away. But it  
didn't. Because I began thinking of getting rid of  
him. And being single. And things just got worse  
between us. We put up bigger and bigger fronts.  
Now I'm single, and I realize I'm one of those  
people who needs to be married.

FADE OUT