

# I'm Waiting

By

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## Theme:

This play portrays a couple who are experiencing conflict over typical marital problems. The stress they are experiencing over money, sexual relations, emotional investment, the kids, and a balance between work and family have brought their patience to a boiling point. When they are through arguing, the Holy Spirit enters and quietly counsels them and leads them to a period of reconciliation.

## Biblical Reference:

Proverbs 15:1

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

## Approximate Running Time:

30 minutes

## Props:

A sofa and an end table will help set the scene. They will also be useful props as the argument progresses. Most people like to move around and avoid direct confrontation during an argument and the more "life like" you can make this argument the more the audience will get out of it.

Cast of Characters:

**Spirit:** Spirit is a human representation of the Holy Spirit and the way the Holy Spirit ministers to us in our times of needs. He/She is always to act as a quiet, patient, loving, caring person. He/she is to demonstrate how the Holy Spirit patiently waits for us to seek Him before He begins to minister to us.

**Wife:** Wife is a young wife and mother who has had enough of the difficulties that face her marriage. She confronts her husband with the conflicts that she's tired of. Then, as her spirit is broken, she is able to present herself to her husband broken and willing to reconcile.

**Husband:** Husband is a young husband and father who is confronted with the difficulties that his wife is having with their marriage. Not being able to discuss them in a civil manner, he leads into an argument that seems to end with irreconcilable differences. But the Holy Spirit ministers to him and he is able to heal and forgive his wife and the two are able to enjoy a time of reconciliation.

Scene:

The play opens as Husband and Wife stand with their backs to each other. Their arms are folded on their chests and their faces are reflecting anger. They hold this stance for a few beats until the audience is silent, devoting their full attention on the silent actors before them. Then Husband begins to speak and the two whirl around and confront each other. It appears as if the two are in the middle of an argument.

Husband: I can't believe you want to go over this again.

Wife: Why wouldn't I want to go over this again?

Husband: We've been over this before. In fact, it seems as if we go over this every other night. I'm sick of it.

Wife: You're sick of it? I'm sick of it. You make promise after promise after promise, but you never come through on any of your promises.

Husband: Never? I never come through on my promises? I'm sure I haven't screwed up every little thing you've planned for my life. I'm sure I've gotten at least one little thing right, according to you and your high standards.

Wife: Well, Ok you may have gotten a few things right, but the vast majority of what you do is wrong and I'm sick and tired of telling you to shape up.

Husband: I'm sick of it too, have you ever thought of that? Have you ever taken my feelings into consideration, or are you focusing in on yourself again? Are you just listing a bunch of things that will make your life easier, you're just piling them all on me so that you don't have to deal with them without thinking about how I feel?

Wife: That's all you're concerned with: their impact on you. Well, what about the impact your actions have on me? They seem to be forgotten amidst the fun you're having making my life miserable.

Husband: You're life's miserable. I'm sorry, you must be mistaken. It's my life that's miserable, and my life is miserable because you've made it that way!

Wife: You're life's miserable. Yeah, right. What's miserable about your life? You get to do anything you want to do, but whenever I say that I'd like to do something you tell me that I can't. You control me, you suppress me, you treat me like I'm a slave around here and you have the nerve to say that your life is miserable.

Husband: It is miserable. I don't know if you've noticed as of late, but I've got a wife who goes out of her way to let me know when I'm screwing up and how she'd like to see me change. That's how my life's miserable. I hear it every single day.

Wife: Your wife isn't trying to make you miserable, can't you see that? You've got a wife that loves you and who wants to see our marriage move forward, instead of slipping backwards, like you want it to.

Husband: [*Looking around.*] I don't see a wife like that. You must be thinking of someone else.

Wife: You're just blind to the truth. You can't see past your own selfishness.

Husband: If I had a wife like the one you're describing I wouldn't be arguing with you right now, I can tell you that much.

Wife: If you would open your eyes and see what you're missing you wouldn't be arguing right now, I can tell you that much!

Husband: Oh, it's not like your miss perfect either.

Wife: I'm an awful lot more loyal than you are.

Husband: Oh yeah?

Wife: Yeah.

Husband: If you're so loyal why do you spend all of our money on yourself? How come we always have financial problems? I work real hard to get us ahead in this world and you seem to spend every paycheck on yourself. There's never anything left over when it comes to me. I'm sick of it. If you're so loyal to me why do you spend all of my money?

Wife: Oh, I'm such a big spender. First of all, I spend *your* money on our family. I spend it on things like food, clothes, water, heat, gas, our bills, and some other things that you seem to think are unimportant. If we spent our money on the things you wanted we'd have no food, but at least you'd be able to play golf whenever you wanted to. And besides, if you brought home more money I'd have more to spend on the things we need and maybe, just maybe there'd be enough for you to spend on the things you really want to do.

Husband: You see, you're always turning things around on me so that it's always my fault. If only I'd make more money. If only I did this. If only I did that. Well, I'd say we'd be much better off if only you'd spend less money. I'm doing the best I can. You don't know what it's like in the real world. All you do is sit at home and gossip with your girlfriends all day long. Maybe if you'd do something productive with your life we could afford to keep up with your spending habits.

Wife: You always bring my staying home into this. You don't understand what I do for you, what I do for our family, what I do in the household, what I sacrifice every single day just so that you can go and play golf with your friends once a week.

Husband: Oh, I'm sure it's a big sacrifice, staying at home all day, doing whatever you want to do just so that our kids can have the best head start in life. Don't you understand: if we don't have money we can't take care of our kids. I mean, that's pretty straight forward and simple. I don't know why you can't understand that.

Wife: If I went to work and made more money we'd be no better off. We've been over this before. First of all, we have to pay for day care, secondly...

Husband: You're right. We have been over this before and I don't want to get into it again. It's a losing battle. I'm stuck being poor for the rest of my life just so that you can stay home and have your social clubs.

Wife: You said you didn't want to get into it, but you start into it again. You see, this is what I mean when I say that you don't listen to me. You just say whatever you want to say. You think that you're going to appease by letting me tell you what I think, but I want you to do more than just listen. I want you to react too.

Husband: You want me to tell you what I really think now? You want me to react to what you think now?

Wife: Yeah, believe it or not, I do. I don't want you to tell me what you think by fighting with me all the time, but if that's the only way I'm going to hear how you really think about things than I guess it's better than nothing.

Husband: Well how about if you start taking my feelings into consideration. You know how much I resent the fact that you keep holding yourself back from me sexually.

Wife: What are you talking about? We had sex last week. Don't you remember?

Husband: It was such a memorable experience. That's not my idea of sex.

Wife: How do you expect me to open up to you sexually if you're not willing to open up to me emotionally. Don't you think the two have anything to do with each other? I tell you this all the time, but you still don't listen to me. You just expect me to get into it without any feeling behind it, but I can't get into it if I know you're not interested in investing yourself in me emotionally.

Husband: You're always talking about your emotions. When do you expect me to take the large amounts of time it takes to meet your emotional needs? I don't have the time it takes to talk to you. Every time I try to talk to you, you go on and on about one thing after another, or we end up fighting like we are right now.

Wife: Like it's going to take a lot of time for you to invest yourself in me emotionally. Maybe if you put the paper down in the evening and turned off the stupid television once in a while you'd begin to understand what it is that I need from you. But no, you're too interested in cooling down after your hard day at work sittin at your desk looking at the computer screen all day. Like that's really stressful. You should see the things I do around here while [*sarcastically*] you're working real hard at work all day.

Husband: You know that I'm tired from a long day at work when I get home. You know I like to relax before the evening. You know the last thing I need at the end of a day is to get all involved in your problems. I've got enough problems of my own to solve at work. I'm not asking you to help me solve my problems, why do I have to solve your problems too. I think that should be up to you to figure out.

Wife: I just wish you'd understand that our family is a lot more important than that stupid job you have. You treat your job as if it's the most important thing in your life, but it isn't.

Husband: I wish you'd understand what it's like to have a hard day at work and then come home to this.

Wife: Don't you think that I have bad days too? You think that I'm sitting at home sipping tea all day long or something like that. You have no idea how hard it is to raise small children because you never spend any time with your kids.

Husband: Oh yes I do.

Wife: Sitting in front of the TV with them does not constitute spending time with them. You never do a darn thing about investing yourself into their lives, just like you don't do a darn thing to invest yourself in my life.

Husband: What do you call what I do when I go off to work every day? That's investing myself into your life. Without that job you wouldn't have any money to spend and we all know how unhappy you'd be if you didn't have any money to spend.

Wife: Without your family you wouldn't have any purpose in life. You'd just be living day by day for some other thing you wanted to buy. You'd be a wreck.

Husband: I don't have any purpose in my life now. My family takes everything that I have from me and I can't even get an evening of peace and quiet around here. As soon as I open my mouth we end up in an argument and we both just get more upset. I'm sick of this.

Wife: Maybe if you'd do something that wasn't selfish we'd see a change in our relationship. Do you think that this is the type of a marriage I'm looking for? Do you think that this is all I want to get out of life? I don't think so.

Husband: [*He's had enough. He realizes that this argument is going nowhere.*] Well, I've had enough of this. I'm sick of arguing over everything and not getting anywhere. Something's got to change or I'm going to go nuts.

Wife: I agree. So, what's gonna' change?

Husband: Is it going to be you or me?

Wife: Are you going to change?

Husband: I'm not gonna' change. I'm not at fault here. [*He turns his back on her as he did at the start of the play.*]

Wife: I'm not going to change either. I'm definitely not the one at fault here.

[*She turns her back on him as she did at the start of the play. The two stand there not giving in to the other. At this point the Holy Spirit comes into the scene, utilizing the opportunity to speak to their hearts in the quietness of the moment. As the spirit converses with each of the actors, the other actor stands their ground as if they cannot hear the conversation between the spirit and the other actor. At the conclusion of each of the conversations the actors begin to relax in stages until they are both at peace. At that point they move to embrace each other and begin to apologize for their behavior.*]

Spirit: [*Approaches Woman first.*] Are you through?

Wife: [*Emphatically.*] No!

Spirit: What else would you like to say?

Wife: I hate him!

Spirit: Now are you through?

Wife: [*Pause. Giving in.*] Yes.

Spirit: Do you feel any better now that you've said that you hate him?

Wife: [*Pause. Thinking. Giving in.*] No.

Spirit: He loves you. Do you know that?

Wife: Yes.

Spirit: Do you desire to resolve this or would you rather go your own way?

Wife: I want to resolve it. I don't want to go my own way. I need my husband. I just wish that he'd be the man God wants him to be.

Spirit: I understand. I know that there is a long list of things you'd like to change about him, but presenting that list to him every time you two have an argument is not the best way to get him to change.

Wife: I know.

Spirit: Besides, he can't really change unless I help him. He's grounded in a sinful nature that keeps him doing the things that he's doing. His selfish behavior won't change until he's convicted of his sin and he's willing to move forward a changed man.

Wife: I know.

Spirit: And I hope you realize that once he begins to move forward the wrong words said at the wrong time could cause him to lose a lot of ground.

Wife: I know.

Spirit: Are you willing to take on that kind of a responsibility to see him change?

Wife: Yes.

Spirit: And do you realize that he's not the only who has to change? You have to change too. Some of the things you said today were driven by your sinful nature.

Wife: But how can I change my sinful nature?

Spirit: It's not easy, but if you're willing to let me help you, I can begin to work within you to bring about a great change in your attitude as well.

Wife: Oh, I do desire that change. I want to love my husband as I should. I want to honor, obey, and support him in everything that he does, but it just seems as if a lot of the things he does have nothing to do with the Lord.

Spirit: Yes, but that kind of change can't take place by telling him what he has to do. You have to show him. You have to read The Word. You have to initiate conversation regarding what you have read. You have to suggest, you have to offer, you have to be patient and willing to let him get used to leading you. You can't tell him how to do it. If you do, you're leading him, he's not leading you.

Wife: But I like to be in control.



- Spirit: I know, but you have to realize that you're no better than he is. You're both in a sinful state and in my eyes the two of you are the same.
- Wife: But I do so much more than he does.
- Spirit: Ah, but without me you can do nothing. Without the sacrifice of Christ on the cross you would not have salvation. Without the grace of God your works would be in vain. It is only through the strength of God that your works can be accomplished. And remember, compared to the work of Christ on the cross, your works are menial.
- Wife: I'm sorry. Can you forgive me?
- Spirit: Yes. You are forgiven. I know your repentance is genuine. I know you desire to see reconciliation between the two of you, but you have to remember that you need to seek that reconciliation every day. Without that attitude you will grow apart quickly.
- Wife: I desire a strong marriage. I want the two of us to grow closer to each other and to you every day. Is that possible?
- Spirit: All things are possible through me. Right now he's feeling hurt too, do you know that?
- Wife: Yes.
- Spirit: Are you ready to reconcile.
- Wife: I'm not sure. I still need some time to think of The Words to say.
- Spirit: Well, you think about it. I'll give you The Words to speak when the time comes, but I want you to prepare your heart first. [*Spirit now approaches Husband.*] Is there anything else you'd like to say if you could?
- Husband: I hate doing this fighting thing, but once we get into it I just can't stop myself from keeping it going. I know that she's got some good points, but for some reason I just can't give in. I can't let her win. It's almost like it feels good to keep the argument going that I just don't want to stop yelling at her.
- Spirit: Why does it make you feel good?
- Husband: Why? Because I'm so frustrated and hurt whenever she tells me that I'm not good enough. That really hurts me. It feels good to hurt her back. You know, I'm trying my hardest to do the things I need to do to take care of my family and to keep things going at work, and to make her happy, but I just don't understand why things aren't working out.
- Spirit: She loves you. Do you know that?

Husband: Yes.

Spirit: She doesn't want to leave you, do you know that?

Husband: Yes.

Spirit: Do you desire to resolve this or would you rather go your own way?

Husband: Oh, no. I want to resolve this. I need my wife. I love my kids. I can't imagine what life would be like without them. I just wish that I didn't have everyone on my back all the time. I wish I had a break, you know, time away from all of the stresses so that I could do the things I want to do.

Spirit: Do you know that the difficult things you are facing right now are the results of choices you have made in the past?

Husband: [*Pause. Giving in.*] Yes.

Spirit: And that you can choose to make them better or let them grow worse over time?

Husband: Yes.

Spirit: And that choices you make today will affect the situations you have to deal with in the future?

Husband: Yes, but do you realize how hard it is for me to change the way I've been doing things?

Spirit: I know how hard it is. I know what it's like to have to give in to the wishes of others, I know how hard it is to change the way you react to things and move in a new direction, but I also know that in the end it's well worth the effort. I know you can do it. You just have to be willing to make the effort. You think about it.

[*Spirit leaves the husband and moves back towards Wife.*]

Spirit: Have you decided that it is time to reconcile?

Wife: I'm not sure.

Spirit: You know that he wants to stay with you, don't you.

Wife: Yes.

Spirit: He's hurting right now too, do you know that?

Wife: I know.

Spirit: He's feeling the same frustration and the same pain that you're feeling right now.

Wife: I know.

Spirit: He's willing to work through this to resolve the problem so that you can move forward and celebrate a time of healing.

Wife: He is?

Spirit: Yes, he is.

Wife: I didn't know that.

Spirit: Well, you do know that things will be much better if the two of you stop arguing and work together to resolve the problem, don't you.

Wife: Yes.

Spirit: And that a spirit of humility on the part of you both will help ease any conflicts in the future.

Wife: Yes.

Spirit: You know that one of you has to give in before the problems are going to be resolved, don't you?

Wife: Yes.

Spirit: Is it going to be you?

Wife: No.

Spirit: Why not?

Wife: Because I always give in. I'm always the one who gives up. I never get what I want and I'm sick of it. [*Her increased level of tension is visible.*]

[*Spirit leaves Wife in her frustration and address Husband as he is thinking.*]

Spirit: Are you ready to make the effort change your ways?

Husband: I don't know.

Spirit: I can't help you until you're ready to change. I can't help you until you desire that change and are willing to do what it takes to bring those changes about. Are you ready?

Husband: I don't know.

Spirit: Why do you want to hold on to your ways?

Husband: I don't know.

Spirit: Do you realize that you're trapped by your own ways?

Husband: Yes.

Spirit: You realize the freedom you can find if you let them go, don't you?

Husband: Yes.

Spirit: Then why won't you let go of them and let me help you change?

Husband: Do you know how hard that is? Do you know what it's like to let things go, things that you've been holding on to for years? Things that justify the way that you've been acting, things that make your decisions logical, things that prove that you're not wrong, things that show that you're a victim and not the criminal? Do you have any idea how hard it is to let go of those things?

Spirit: I do.

Husband: Well, do you realize what happens after you can't hold on to them anymore? I mean, if I let them go, I know that I can't use them ever again to get my own way. I have to let go of them and never bring them back to my aid. That's hard.

Spirit: I do realize the implications behind such a decision. I also realize that such a decision will make you a much better person, on the inside and on the outside.

Husband: But it's hard.

Spirit: I know. No good change comes easy. Besides, this is what the Lord desires of your heart, and I know you know that.

Husband: [*Pauses as he deals with Spirit's simple response.*] Is that all you're going to say?

Spirit: Yes, that's all I need to say. You know that you need to let them go. You know that I can't help you until you decide to do so. Now I just have to wait until you're willing to let them go. I have to wait until you're willing to let me help you. I'm just here waiting.

Husband: How long are you going to wait?

Spirit: As long as it takes.

Husband: [*Pauses as he deals with the difficult decision facing him. Then, realizing that Spirit is right, he breaks down and gives in.*] I need you. I can't do it on my own. I just can't do it anymore. I'm sick of fighting you. I'm sick of trying to do it on my own. I'm ready. Are you sure you're willing to help me?

Spirit: I'm willing.

Husband: You'll show me how to change?

Spirit: I'll minister to you in a soft and quiet way. I can heal you, I can direct you, I can open your eyes to things in The Word you haven't seen before, things that will guide you through this difficult time.

Husband: What should I do now?

Spirit: You know that you've hurt her.

Husband: Yes, and I'm sorry for that. I truly am.

Spirit: You know that you haven't treated her the way you should have.

Husband: Yes, and I'm sorry for that too.

Spirit: You know that you have to present yourself to her, broken and changed. You have to be willing to work with her to resolve the problems between you. You have to be dedicated to see this through to the end.

Husband: I know.

Spirit: Are you willing to do it?

Husband: I can't do it on my own.

Spirit: I'm here to help you.

Husband: I'm ready. But, do you think that she's ready for me to present myself to her. I don't know if I can handle a rejection from her right now. I don't know what I would do if things fell apart again.

Spirit: I'll give you the words to say. You prepare your heart. I'll make sure that she's ready to hear it. [*Spirit approaches Wife.*] He's ready to change. His spirit has been broken. He's ready to present himself to you, but he's afraid you won't accept him.

Wife: He's been ready to change before, but did that do any good? How do I know that this time he's not lying - like he did the rest of the times he said he was willing to change?

Spirit: Whether he's lying or not is not up to you. You can only be responsible for the way that you react to the things that he does towards you. If he's willing to change you have to be ready to accept changes, no matter how small they are, and you have to be ready for him to make mistakes. You have to be willing to forgive him of his mistakes and work with him for the rest of your life. This isn't a competition. This isn't a race. The two of you are the same in my eyes. You're not better than him. He's not better than you. The two of you need to work together, you need to help each other grow closer to each other. If the two of you aren't willing to do that you'll wind up back in this situation before long, and I'm sure you don't want that to happen.

Wife: No, I don't.

Spirit: Than you have to be willing to be broken yourself. I know that he's done you wrong, but you've done him wrong too. If he's willing to forgive you, you have to be willing to forgive him. Are you willing?

Wife: Are you sure he's ready to change?

Spirit: He's ready. Are you?

Wife: Yes. I don't want to live like this. I want us to be close. I want our children to see a healthy relationship that they can model their own marriage after when they get older. I'm ready.

Spirit: Great.

Wife: But, what do I say?

Spirit: Keep your spirit broken. I'll minister to you in a still quiet voice and I'll give you The Words to speak. Just keep your spirit broken before me.

Wife: Thank you.

*[Spirit approaches Husband.]*

Spirit: Are you ready?

Husband: Yes, I think so, but what if I'm not sure what to say? What if I screw up again?

Spirit: Keep your spirit broken. I'll minister to you in a still quiet voice and I'll give you The Words to speak. Just keep your spirit broken before me.

*[Spirit begins to move away from the pair and exits.]*

Husband: *[Calling to Spirit.]* Thank you.

*[Realizing that the time to confront each other is here, Husband and Wife begin to get anxious about the confrontation.]*

Spirit: *[From off stage. Both Husband and Wife react to Spirit's calming words.]* Keep your spirit broken. I'll minister to you in a still quiet voice and I'll give you The Words to speak. Just keep your spirit broken before me.

*[Husband and Wife turn to face each other. They just gaze for a moment and then move towards each other quickly and embrace.]*

Husband: I'm sorry.

Wife: I'm sorry too.

Husband: I love you.

Wife: I love you too.

*[They break their embrace but hold hands as they reconcile with each other.]*

Husband: I'm really sorry for the foolish, selfish way that I've been acting. I've got a lot on my mind as of late and I've really been feeling the pressure and I guess I just over reacted. I've been taking my frustrations out on you and the kids and I know it's wrong. I'm sorry. Can you forgive me?

Wife: Yes, I'll forgive you, but I'm at fault too. I've been on your back about a lot of things lately. I know you've had a hard time at work, I know that the kids have been on your nerves, I know that our money problems really bother you, and I still expect you to be able to handle everything that comes your way. That's wrong of me, and I need to apologize for it. Will you please forgive me?

Husband: On one condition.

Wife: And what is that?

Husband: That you'll forgive me too.

Wife: Deal. *[They shake hands and then resume holding hands.]*

Husband: I recall you saying something about my not being around for the kids. What do you think I should change?

Wife: You're not gonna' get mad at me for suggesting things?

Husband: I asked the question. I really want to know the answer.

Wife: Well, you usually come home from work, and I understand that you may have had a tough day, but you just check out of the family before you check in. The kids are afraid to come around you because they know you're gonna' bite their heads off as soon as they approach you. You really need to leave work at the office and try to relax by spending time with the kids - and that doesn't mean sitting in the room and reading the paper while they watch TV. They need you to spend some one-on-one time with them.

Husband: I'm sorry. Look, I promise to make an effort to spend time with them tomorrow night and we'll take it from there. Okay?

Wife: Okay. Now what was it that you said about me? Something about how I spend a lot of money on things that we don't need, or something like that.

Husband: I'm sorry, I didn't mean to say that you're out wasting our money whenever you go shopping. It's not as if you ever see me out grocery shopping or paying the bills. I really appreciate your work at running our household. I shouldn't have said those things.

Wife: No, you're right. I could spend our money better than I do now. It's just that things are tight right now and I don't like cutting all of our corners. You know me, I like to go shopping. I like to spend money. I just wish that we had more to spend, that's all.

Husband: Things may improve for us in the near future, you know.

Wife: I know, but until then we can change some of the things we do with our money.

Husband: I think we've got to be careful about our spending until things do change for us so that we don't get into too much trouble. If our spending gets too far ahead of our income we're gonn'a get ahead of ourselves and get into a lot of debt.

Wife: I know. I can cut some more things out of what I spend.

Husband: And I know I should cut back on things like golf.

Wife: No, that's Ok. You need your stress reliever.

Husband: Yeah, but there are cheaper courses that are just as good at 'relieving' my stress. It's not just your responsibility to cut back on our expenses.

Wife: Well, that's up to you. Let's see, I think I also complained about loyalty. I'm sorry. You have been so loyal to me and the kids. A lot of other guys would have taken off by now. I know you're in it for the long haul and I really appreciate knowing that you're going to be around no matter what happens.

Husband: Me too. I'm glad that you're here when I get home. I know the kids really appreciate it and I'm sorry for what I said about you going to work. You're right, we've been over that a hundred times and I really think that our family is a lot better off because you're home. I haven't told you this before, but I know that some of the guys at work are jealous of me because of some of the things you do for me, and I know the only reason why you can do those things for me is just because you're home during the day. I really appreciate that you are home with the kids. I'm sorry I haven't thanked you sooner.

Wife: Oh, I love being home with the kids. I know the Lord has blessed us for making the decision for me to stay home with the kids. And I know it's really going to pay off in the long run.



Husband: Well I think that it pays off now and I'm sorry for bringing it up against you again.

Wife: It's all right. I understand. Now what was it that you said about me? Ah, yes, I was holding myself back from you sexually. I'm sorry, but, just like you like to read the paper to get away from your day, the last thing I want to do is get involved sexually with you when you do nothing to help me out.

Husband: I'm sorry. I know that you have emotional needs that I'm not meeting, and I can understand how that affects you sexually.

Wife: No, it's wrong for me to withhold myself from you just because you're not meeting my needs.

Husband: Maybe so, but it's wrong for me to selfishly expect you to put your needs aside just to meet my own needs. I'm not doing that for you, how can I expect you to do that for me?

Wife: Truce?

Husband: Truce. So, what can I do differently to meet your needs so that you open up and want to have sex with me?

Wife: Well, if you made some effort to ask me about my day, how things are going at home, you know, stuff like that, I'm sure that I'd be much more willing to let myself be swept away by my handsome husband.

Husband: Really?

Wife: [*Playfully.*] Really.

Husband: So, are you telling me that what just happened between us here tonight is like the first step to sweeping you away?

Wife: That's what I'm saying.

Husband: So, is now like a good time to start sweeping?

Wife: Now? You mean you're done talking with me?

Husband: Only if you're done, I mean, if you still want to talk about it, I'm willing to talk about it some more, but if you're done talking and, like, willing to be swept, then I'm ready to start sweeping.


Wife: Well, you know me, I could talk about this kind'a stuff all night.

Husband: [*Playfully dejected.*] Oh, well, I mean, if you'd like to keep talking...I guess that I...

Wife: [*Jumping into his arms.*] No way! We can talk some more tomorrow. I'd rather be swept away.

[*They both display big smiles.*]

- CURTAIN -

A decorative flourish consisting of a central infinity-like symbol with two loops, flanked by horizontal lines that curve upwards and then downwards, resembling a stylized scroll or flourish.

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