

A NEW LEAF

HENRY
To Science.

HENRIETTA
Do you have any straws?

HENRY
Straws? No Straws.

HENRIETTA
I should have told you to buy straws.

HENRY
I have recently been reading Gregor Mendel's fascinating experiments with garden peas, and it has struck me again, how much we owe our understanding of plant genetics, with all its myriad implications to that brilliant pioneer.

HENRIETTA
Yes, but we musn't forget Morgan and Muller. Morgan, Muller and Mendel.

HENRY
Who?

HENRIETTA
Gregor Mendel, the man who you just mentioned. Morgan, Muller, and Mendel, I think, are a perfect example of scientific synthesis.
Um. Does it seem that....to you?

HENRY
No it doesn't!
Collective appraisal has never appealed to me.

HENRIETTA

Oh, I didn't mean to criticize.....
(SHE DROPS HER WINE ON THE FLOOR).

....Oh your carpet, your beautiful carpet.

HENRY

Oh, that's alright Henrietta, please. Now, now, don't, please, Henrietta,

HENRIETTA

Is there any cold water?

HENRY

No, no, never mind, please sit down. Henrietta, Henrietta. Please.
Nonsense, Nonsense. The floor needed a touch of color
(...WHILE HE POURS HIS WINE ONTO THE CARPET – laughing)

HENRIETTA

Henry I'm so stupid and clumsy and goosh(?). I don't know what to say.
I ruined another carpet.

HENRY

No, Henrietta, please. Stop that. Can you possibly believe for one moment, that what happens to this foolish hairy floor covering matters to me, when I have you sitting besides me, looking at me with your beautifully soft, yet highly intelligent, well informed eyes, talking to me in your gentle, yet perfectly modulated podium trained voice.

(SMALL LAUGH) You must think of me – very superficial.

HENRIETTA

Oh no, I don't.

HENRY

Henrietta, eh.....eh.....ah.....would you care for some more wine.

HENRIETTA

Oh yes, I would love some.

HENRY

Henrietta, Henrietta, I have something to ask you.
I, I,...uh, ah, umm....what time is it?

HENRIETTA

It's, um, oh, it's 10 o'clock. I'm going to have to leave pretty soon cuz I
have to get up tomorrow, very early, for a class.

HENRY

(HE TAKES A SIP....AND HAS LIKE A REFLUX)
Uh, oooh,

HENRIETTA

Pardon? Is something wrong? Henry?

HENRY

Oh, No, No.

Henrietta, Henrietta, we have a great deal in common you and I, we are
both of the same Division: Vertebrata, the same Class Mammalia, the
same Order Primate, the same Family Homididine, the same genus
Homo, the same Species Sapiens....and the same variety of a class.

HENRIETTA

I don't think there is a classified variety...

HENRY

(CUTTING HER OFF)

Keep quiet...oh I'm sorry. I'm very sorry. I, What...where was I...oh I, oh
yes, in fact, the only difference between us is that I'm a man, and you're
a woman, and we don't have to let that interfere if we are reasonably
careful.

HENRIETTA

Yes, yes.

HENRY

Henrietta, what I'm trying to say is
(HE STANDS UP, GULPS DOWN THE REST OF HIS WINE...)
Will you marry me?

HENRIETTA
I beg your pardon?

HENRY
(HE BURPS, THEN DROPS HIS CLASS, BURPS AGAIN.)
Oh Henrietta, if you care for me at all, even if you don't care for me at all,
but feel that you could learn to care for me at all,

(SHE STAND UP - WHILE HE'S TALKING)
in a reasonable amount of time, please say yes, there is often a tidy
profit in specialation.

HENRIETTA
I care for you Henry, I do care for you.

HENRY
Oh Henrietta, Ahh.....Dammit to hell.
(HE GOES ON A KNEE, AND PUT IT ON BROKEN GLASS, YELLING AH....)

HENRIETTA
Did you hurt yourself?

HENRY
No, No, kneeling on broken glass is my favorite past time, it keeps me
from slouching.

HENRIETTA
Do you think you should get up Henry?

HENRY
No, NEVER, not until I finish. I would kneel on anything for you
Henrietta. Henrietta, if you turn me down it will be the end of me. I will
literally have nothing...

HENRIETTA
I'm not, I wouldn't, I won't, I won't....

HENRY
You won't

HENRIETTA
...and I wouldn't, I'm not going to turn you down. Henry,

HENRY
You're not.

HENRIETTA
No, I love you Henry, and that was my dream Henry, from the moment that you spilled your tea on Gloria Cummit's ovason that someday you'd ask me to marry you. That was most of my dream.

HENRY
Henrietta darling, would this Saturday be too soon?

HENRIETTA
This Saturday?

HENRY
Yeah. This.

HENRIETTA
Uh, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday....Oh Heavens mercy. This...

HENRY
Well, answer yes or no Henrietta, for I'm intensely uncomfortable.

HENRIETTA
Yes, yes, yes.

HENRY
Oh, Thank you. Oh, thank you.
(GETS UP SLOWLY....IN PAIN, PANTING)

You're a good girl. You're a good, a good girl.
(HE TAKES OUT HANDKERCHIEF & DABS HER LIPS, THEN THEY KISS)

HENRIETTA

Heavens, I mean mercy, gracious, heavens.

HENRY

Stay with Heavens.