

# The Wish

Sherry Churchill





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CAST

SUSAN MCDONALD: A wife of many years.

ROGER MCDONALD: Susan's husband of many years.

AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN: A newbie who is quite nervous.

Place

A living room.

Time

The present.

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## THE WISH

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*Setting: At Center, a comfortable sofa faces the audience. Down Right is a TV set which is slanted so the audience can't see the picture. Any other living room décor may be used, but is not necessary.*

*At Rise: ROGER and SUSAN are on the sofa. Susan has a home décor magazine. Roger has the TV remote control, which he incessantly uses. They have been married for many years. There is a pair of Roger's shoes near the sofa on Susan's side.*

SUSAN: You know, I've been thinking. Since we're going to paint anyway, maybe we should think about getting an interior decorator in here to give us some advice. I'm not really very good at putting things together. But if we just paid someone to draw us a plan, then I...or we...could just follow it at our own pace. You know, kind of like you did with our landscaping.

*(A pause. Susan keeps reading, and Roger keeps changing channels with the remote.)*

SUSAN: I've really been thinking a lot about teal. For some reason, I keep gravitating to that shade, I don't know why. I just think it looks so peaceful and...I don't know...beachy. I'm actually starting to buy new clothes in that color. I wonder if it's just a phase with me? Sometimes I think the professional decorators and the clothing designers use subliminal suggestion to make us start craving a color. The same thing happened when I went from Victorian to Traditional. I think it's a way to get us to buy all new stuff every few years.

*(Another pause. She reads. He keeps changing channels.)*

SUSAN: So? What do you think about getting an interior decorator?

SUSAN: Roger, I said what do you think about getting an interior decorator?

SUSAN: You're not listening to me, are you?

*(He changes to another channel.)*

SUSAN: Roger, have you ever listened to a single word I've ever said in our entire marriage?

*(He changes to another channel.)*

SUSAN: ROGER! *(He jumps and turns to her)*

ROGER: What?

SUSAN: Did you hear a word I said just now?

ROGER: Yes, of course.

SUSAN: Tell me what I just said.

ROGER: *(stares at her)* Something about painting.

SUSAN: Roger, that was ten minutes ago. Honestly, I might as well be talking to myself. Could you put down that remote for five minutes so we can talk?

ROGER: *(puts down the remote and crosses his arms)* Fine. Talk.

SUSAN: Now I've lost my enthusiasm. Roger, you never listen to me.

ROGER: Maybe that's because you never stop talking.

SUSAN: The reason I never stop talking is because I have to keep repeating myself! It takes four to five times before it sinks in with you!

ROGER: Maybe I tune you out because every single time you open your mouth, you're spending money!

SUSAN: That is not true!

ROGER: It most certainly is!

SUSAN: How would you know? You don't listen!

ROGER: Okay. What were you just saying to me when I wasn't listening?

SUSAN: That...(realizes he's right) I was thinking about hiring an interior designer.

ROGER: I rest my case.

SUSAN: You don't have a case. Besides, I have to pick up your shoes all the time.

ROGER: (stunned) What does that have to do with anything?

SUSAN: We were talking about...bad habits.

ROGER: No, we weren't. But why don't we? Did you know you have a habit of nagging?

SUSAN: I am *not* a nagging wife!

ROGER: (imitates her) Roger, I had to pick up your shoes again today. Roger, you ate the last of the peanut butter and didn't add it to the shopping list. Roger, why do you have to tinkle in every bathroom in the house?

SUSAN: Now, that's a legitimate question which you are utterly unable to explain! Why must you christen every toilet we have? Why isn't one toilet enough? Are you marking your territory in your castle or something?

ROGER: It's a man thing, okay?

SUSAN: And what exactly is a man thing?

ROGER: It's...what...men...do...because they're men. A man thing!

SUSAN: That was a very profound explanation. Thank you.

ROGER: Sue, it's no different than why do you have to have the same color polish on your nails as on your toes? Who cares? Why does your necklace have to match your earrings? Who cares? Why does our house have to be in a certifiable style? As a man, I say throw a few pictures on the wall and call it good!

**END OF FREEVIEW**

**You'll want to read and perform this show!**