

The Helpmate

Drena Heizer





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THE HELPMATE

By Drena Heizer

PLOT: We look in on Adam in the Garden of Eden as he places an urgent phone call after making some startling discoveries. Everything has been just fine before this, but now what is he supposed to do about what just happened?

CAST

NARRATOR: Man or woman.

ADAM: Man.

EVE: Woman.

GOD: Man with deep voice.

STAGE POSITIONS: Adam and Eve are center stage, side by side. The Narrator and God should be on an off-stage microphone. (It would appear rather strange if a third person is seen in the Garden with Adam and Eve.)

PROPS: A telephone for Adam. Wigs for Adam and Eve, the longer and messier the better.

PERFORMANCE NOTES: As Adam talks on the phone, Eve is reacting with facial expressions and body language. When she begins to cry on page 5, it should initially be rather loud, and the audience loves it if the sound is not just ordinary weeping. Our actress starts with a high squeal, which always gets a laugh. When she starts crying again on page 6, she should start the same way but quickly bring it down to soft sobbing while Adam is talking. However, she continues to react with resentment when she is described as TOUCHY and all WET, and she nods emphatically when Adam says she is PROGRAMMED to cry and that it's supposed to lay a guilt trip on him.

The actor playing Adam will bear in mind that when he is on the phone his lines represent only half of a conversation, so he will pause when the four dots appear in the script so he can give the appearance of 'listening.'

NARRATOR: Can't live with 'em, can't live without 'em. That's the way it has been since the dawn of time. The scene opens in the Garden of Eden. Adam has made a startling discovery and has placed an urgent phone call.

ADAM: *(on the telephone)* What's going on, Lord? I just woke up and found this big Band-Aid on my chest. What happened? ...WHAT operation? ...What do you mean, you'll explain later?

EVE: Must you talk so loud? I'm trying to sleep!

ADAM: *(waves EVE away)* Listen—there's another thing. This morning I found this—CREATURE in my bed. It's not like any other animal I've ever seen!

EVE: Do you have to make phone calls so early in the morning? Don't you have any consideration at all?

ADAM: *(waves EVE away)* What do you mean it's just like me? It doesn't look a THING like me. It's *(glances warily at EVE)* ...It's, it's—LUMPY!

EVE: *(indignantly)* What a great blind date YOU turned out to be! We've only just met, and already you're insulting me!

ADAM: *(still on the phone)* Lord, what IS this thing? ...A woman? ...What's a woman? ...What do you mean by "You'll find out!"

EVE: Hey! Do you know that you snore a lot in your sleep? Is this what I'm going to have to put up with!

ADAM: Oh yeah? Do you know that you TALK a lot in your sleep? You never stop talking even when you're unconscious! Now be quiet. This is an important phone call.

EVE: Are you always this grumpy in the morning?

ADAM: *(on the phone)* Lord, why did you do this to me? You thought I was lonely? Well, that's just dandy. Did I TELL you I was lonely? ...Now don't give me that "Father Knows Best" thing...No, now stop being evasive. You're not giving me straight answers. I think you've got a hidden agenda here. ...What do you mean, you're taking the fifth amendment? ...Oh. So all you're going to say is: "You'll find out." Well, fine. Thanks a lot! *(puts phone down)*

EVE: Well, I hope you're satisfied. I wanted to sleep late this morning, but you woke me up talking so loud!

ADAM: Well, exc-u-use me! You woke ME up early with your cold feet all over my back.

EVE: Serves you right! I was cold because YOU hogged all he leaves on the bed!

ADAM: Well, it's MY bed!

EVE: (*smugly*) Not any more!

ADAM: You mean you're going to be hanging out here?

EVE: Yes! I'm your wife!

ADAM: (*puzzled*) Wife? What's a wife?

EVE: (*airily*) You'll find out.

ADAM: You sound just like God.

EVE: You've got it, Buster.

ADAM: Don't call me Buster. My name is Adam.

EVE: Hmm. Nice name. I never heard it before. I'm called Eve.

ADAM: Eve Shmeve! How did you get here anyway?

EVE: God made me out of one of your ribs while you were sleeping.

ADAM: So THAT explains the big Band-Aid! That was a dirty trick. I'd rather have my rib back.

EVE: Too late now, honey.

ADAM: So what are you supposed to be doing here?

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