

# The Quibbles Radio Shows

Karen Riehl





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CLEANING HOUSE

by

Karen Riehl

CAST

ANNOUNCER: Can be male or female.

CAROL QUIBBLE: Wife. Middle-aged or older. Full of talk and ideas.

QUENTIN QUIBBLE: Husband. Middle-aged or older. Quiet

MADGE: Female neighbor. The town gossip.

ANNOUNCER: Now for another fun-filled visit with everyone's favorite couple, Quentin and Carol Quibble. The Quibbles are brought to you by Ipana toothpaste. Ipana, the toothpaste that puts a *shine* in your smile. As the scene opens, we find Carol and Quentin just finishing their breakfast.

CAROL: Quentin, I can't see you. Are you chewing with your mouth open again?

QUENTIN: Yes.

CAROL: Quentin, why do you always read the paper while we eat?

QUENTIN: So you can't see me chew with my mouth open.

CAROL: But then we can't see each other.

QUENTIN: That's right, Carol.

CAROL: You have the paper awfully close to your face. Maybe you need new reading glasses.

*(silence)*

CAROL: Well?

QUENTIN: I can see just fine, Carol.

*(A knock at the door.)*

CAROL: Come in

MADGE: *(extremely cheerful)* Good morning!

QUENTIN: *(under breath)* Oh, good Lord!

CAROL: Hi, Madge. Want some coffee?

MADGE: No, thanks, I really don't have the time. I just dropped by to ask if you'd seen Harold and Elaine James in the past couple of days.

CAROL: No. Why, Madge?

MADGE: Well, now I'm not one to spread gossip, but I saw Sally Tisdale at the garden club banquet last evening and she told me that Ruth Minor told her that Gina Scully told her, when they were at pool exercise class, that Harold James was seen last week, walking down main street with a very pretty, young, tall redhead. In broad daylight! What do you think of that?

CAROL: Well, I—

MADGE: Lois Turnbee also saw them, and so did Gloria Whitcomb and—

QUENTIN: (*dry*) Her name is Robin and she's Harold's sister. She was in town to join Harold and Elaine on a trip to visit their mother.

MADGE: Oh. That must be why no one has seen them lately.

QUENTIN: That's probably the reason, Madge.

MADGE: Oh, my, look at the time! I have to run. I have to do some shopping before I take my books back to the library. By the way, have you noticed Susan, the librarian looking peaked lately? I hope she's not expecting again. Her poor husband works so hard to support the family as it is and —

QUENTIN: Sorry you have to leave so soon, Madge.

MADGE: Oh, yes. Well, I'll see you later then.

CAROL: Bye, Madge. Drop in any time.

*(Door closes.)*

CAROL: What are you doing, Quentin?

QUENTIN: I'm locking the door.

CAROL: Quentin, the house is dirty.

QUENTIN: Yes.

CAROL: Why did you say yes?

QUENTIN: I was being agreeable.

CAROL: Then you don't think I keep a clean house?

QUENTIN: Yes. No! Yes. Oh, good lord!

CAROL: I think it would be fun if we cleaned the house together. What do you think?

QUENTIN: Fun?

CAROL: Yes.

*(silence)*

CAROL: Well?

QUENTIN: Well, what?

CAROL: Shall we? Shall we clean the house together?

QUENTIN: Okay.

CAROL: When?

QUENTIN: Next year some time.

CAROL: I was thinking today would be a good time.

QUENTIN: Yes, I was too. I was thinking that today would be a good day to play golf.

CAROL: Quentin, if you love me you'll clean house with me.

QUENTIN: Let's clean house. I'll get the vacuum, and you get the dust mop.

CAROL: I thought I'd get the vacuum.

QUENTIN: Okay. I'll get the mop.

CAROL: If you'd rather use the vacuum—

QUENTIN: No! I love the mop.

CAROL: But the vacuum is too heavy for me.

QUENTIN: Fine, I'll use the vacuum.

ANNOUNCER: Before we find out who's going to have the joy of using the vacuum, I'd like to remind you of what a joy it is to use Ipana toothpaste. Film star Lana Turner is quoted as saying, "I use it just before I go on set and my teeth shine throughout the scene. My director is so happy he encourages all his actors to brush with Ipana." Yes, folks, it cleans Miss Turner's teeth and her mouth stays fresh all day. It can do the same for you! Now let's return to Carol and Quentin who are busy cleaning the living room.

CAROL: Quentin, you missed some dust in the corner there. I don't think you see the dirt. I think you need new glasses. Maybe you should have your eyes examined.

*(silence)*

CAROL: Well?

QUENTIN: Well, what?

CAROL: Are you going to have your eyes examined?

QUENTIN: Right now, I'm cleaning house, Carol.

CAROL: Why are you rubbing your hip that way. Does it hurt?

QUENTIN: No, it's just tired from bending.

CAROL: I've noticed you rubbing it lately. Maybe you should see a hip doctor.

QUENTIN: I'm fine, Carol.

CAROL: Quentin, you missed a cobweb on the ceiling.

QUENTIN: Carol, you can't get a cobweb off the ceiling with a vacuum. Besides I don't see it.

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