

SETTING: *The front porch of Frank and Mindy's rustic cabin. Two rocking chairs sit center stage.*

AT RISE: *Frank is in a rocking chair. It is morning. Mindy enters, carrying a cup of coffee, happy to greet the day.*

Mindy

Oh, what a morning! I slept like a log and feel like a million bucks.

Frank

Jesus, Mindy....can you be any more annoyin', usin' all them time-worn clichés?

Mindy

Hell, Frank. Even "time-worn cliché"'s a time-worn cliché!

Frank

Can't you think up somethin' on your own?

Mindy

What's a matter Frank? Get up on the wrong side of the bed?

Frank

There you go again, spewing out them clichés like ...like...

Mindy

...like there was no tomorrow? Uh, uh, uh....Like they were a dime a dozen?

Frank

Like you had wrote 'em yourself.

Mindy

I *coulda* wrote 'em myself.

Frank

But you didn't, Mindy. That's my point. You didn't. They're all somebody else's intellectual property!

Mindy

At least I know they didn't come from *you*, then!

Frank

You don't think I could write a cliché as good as them's you been spewin'?

Molly

No, I don't, cuz if'n you *had* come up with somethin', it wouldn't be "time-worn" since no one but you woulda said it...and so it couldn't rightly be defined as a bone fide cliché!

Frank

Point taken, point taken. But, I could, you'd admit, come up with something that might one day *be* a cliché.

Molly

I don't need to admit nothin'.

Frank

It's in our wedding vows.

Molly

Our vows said I gotta admit you're smart when you ain't nothin' but a moron?

Frank

In a manner of speakin.' Says "love, honor and obey."

Molly

Holy Jesus. You're takin' a mighty liberal view of the word "obey."

Frank

Nevertheless...it's still there in our most sacred vows!

Molly

We threw that out, don't ya remember? Everybody agreed it was an anachronism...the preacher...my momma... The water delivery man...they all agreed it was a throw back to the days of yore when women weren't nothin' but property, waitin' their turn on the auction block.

Frank

I gotta copy of them very words. Love, honor...and *obey*.

Molly

But I didn't *say* it! I's gots to *say* it!

Frank

But you signed the certificate.

Molly

And so now you're saying just cuz I signed a piece of paper, that I gotta admit you can come up with somethin' intelligent? With no proof or nothin'?

Frank

What kinda proof do you need?

Molly

Say something clever.

Frank

What? Right here and now?

Molly

I's just givin' you the chance to own up on your claim. Say something witty that no one else has said before, that is destined to become something that everyone going want to say someday.

Frank

That's no small task.

Molly

Ha! It's been said.

Frank

I ain't started yet!

Molly

OK. I'm waitin'.

Frank

Well... let's see here. All right, uh.... What time is it?

Molly

Quit yer stallin.'

Frank

I just wanna see how long it'll take me, is all.

Molly

Oh, I think we both know how long it's gonna take.

Frank

I swear to God!

Mindy

For someone so concerned with the lord God almighty, you do a hell of a lot of swearing.

Frank

God understands swearing. You think he's never swore?

Molly

What does he have to swear about?

Frank

What *doesn't* he have to swear about?! Every day, when he gets out of bed and looks around, don't you think he's sorely disappointed in what he sees?

Molly

I know *I* am.

Frank

Don't you think he was pissed off at that whole Garden of Eden thing?

Mindy

Why should he be pissed about that?

Frank

Why should--? I'm tellin' ya, Mindy, it was a fiasco! An utter fiasco.

Mindy

Why in hell would creatin' a paradise be such a travesty?

Frank

Cuz everything is relative.

Mindy

Frank! You promised me you wouldn't ever bring up my sister and her step uncle again!

Frank

No, with your family's significant others it's "everyone is a relative." When *everything* is relative, it just means that people aren't ever truly happy unless'n they been miserable.

Mindy

Well then I must be the happiest damn woman on the face of the planet!

Frank

What I mean is, without having something terrible to compare to—like, oh, let's say, two years in the maximum state security prison, for example...

Mindy (*nodding knowingly*)

...for forging checks from your ex-employer, George Turly in the amount of \$237,000...uh, as an example?

Frank

...as an.... example, yeah. Well, you only truly appreciate the beauty of the world if you've been locked up in Solitaire.

Molly

Adam and Eve were locked up in solitaire?

Frank

No, but Adam and Eve had paradise at their fingertips, and yet do you think they knew that?

Mindy

God mighta *told* 'em.

Frank

It wouldn't of done no good, don't you see? They had to experience it for their selves. They didn't know how good they had it, cuz they had nothin' worse to compare it to.

Mindy

Oh, I get it. It's like... Dolly Parton. She grew up poor as hell, but at the time, she seemed to be rather content with having but one outhouse to share with her entire family?

Frank

Right! But she wasn't concerned at all, because she didn't know about indoor plumbing.

Mindy

Strictly speaking, 'course, neither did Adam and Eve.

Frank

Well...right. But aside from not having a working toilet, they had it pretty good.

Mindy

So they took paradise for grantedand now God is pissed.

Frank

Yes. Not only pissed, but really, I don't know.... Somehow exasperated by the whole rotten mess. I mean figure it out. He creates literally creates a paradise on earth.... the temperature is a comfortable 70 degrees with low humidity and zero percent chance of precipitation...

Molly

And you know this how?

Frank

It's in the Bible.

Mindy

God gave us a weather report?

Frank

Didn't need to, and you know why?

Mindy

Cuz in paradise it's always clear skies and room temperature?

Frank

That's right, Just like in those black-and-white sitcoms from the 1960s.

Mindy

Yeah, I guess Adam and Eve had everything.

Frank

Uh...except a toilet.

Mindy

Right. Same as in the sitcoms.

Frank

They had toilets. They must have had toilets.

Mindy

Nope. Not a single one. Near as I can tell, I don't think anybody actually went to the bathroom until 1967.

Frank

Well, I'm pretty certain that Adam and Eve went to the bathroom. And in the Garden of Eden, they had only one rule.

Mindy

Only one at a time in the outhouse?

Frank

No. The rule was...You can't eat the frickin' fruit.

Mindy

God said 'frickin'?

Frank

It's possible.

Mindy

God isn't as stringent about grammar and syntax as I once believed.

Frank

God's human, same as us.

Mindy

God is *not* human.

Frank

We're created in his image, ain't we?

Mindy

You're honestly asking me that??... as I stand here, looking you square in the face?