

Jeff!

ANGELA (cont'd)

ANGELA starts to walk toward him, steps in something wet.

ANGELA (cont'd)

Ack! Did you spill something?

JEFF

What?

ANGELA

Did you spill something? My sock is all wet now.

JEFF

What? No.

ANGELA examines her socks, sniffs her socks, and the floor.

ANGELA

I don't want to believe it's cat pee.

JEFF

But it always is.

ANGELA

Why, why, why? The vet said he's completely healthy.

ANGELA removes her socks.

JEFF

That cat pees on any of my stuff and he's out of here.

ANGELA

Sinbad is a member of the family.

JEFF

He's a cat.

ANGELA

If I started misbehaving, would you toss me into the street?

*JEFF considers, returns to his phone.
ANGELA exits to kitchen. Sound of running water.*

ANGELA (cont'd)

(o.s.)

I think he misses Melanie.

JEFF

I miss her, too. I still use the toilet.

ANGELA re-enters with a towel and a bottle of cat pee cleaner (maybe with a picture of a cat with a line through it on the bottle), dries her feet, pulls a pair of socks from a laundry basket and puts them on.

ANGELA

He just wants me to notice how unhappy he is.

ANGELA starts cleaning up the mess.

ANGELA (cont'd)

And it can't just be coincidence, can it? Sinbad started this peeing stuff right when Melanie left for school; that would be a pretty funny coincidence.

JEFF

Like Lincoln and Kennedy. Angela, please. Change happens. You need to adapt.

ANGELA

Why am I always the one cleaning up?

JEFF

C'mon. Game starts in thirty minutes and my guy isn't starting.

ANGELA

And last time, someone was having an emergency fire sale.

JEFF

Good owners stay abreast of their teams.

ANGELA

You're a fantasy owner.

JEFF

Aw, that hurts. This is important to me, like your... um... your... stuff is important to you.

ANGELA

So in Singapore, your boss didn't care if you skipped meetings to make moves?

JEFF

Opposite time zones. I lost some sleep, but what's the point if you don't try?

ANGELA

That's what I was thinking.

JEFF

Can we not? It's Sunday. My day off.

ANGELA

(almost to self)

Every day is my day off.

(beat)

My eye is still twitching.

(beat)

Jeff!

JEFF

Someone's bitching, what?

ANGELA

No. My eye. It's been twitching... Never mind.

(beat)

Hey, do you want to decorate the tree with me?

JEFF

I thought you wanted to wait until Melanie came home.

ANGELA

She won't be home until the twenty-third.

JEFF

And you said you wanted to wait.

ANGELA pulls an ornament from a box and puts it on.

ANGELA

It just looks so pathetic. How am I supposed to get into the Christmas spirit looking at that?

*ANGELA claps twice to turn on lights.
Nothing happens. She claps twice again.*

ANGELA (cont'd)

What happened to the lights?

JEFF

They don't work. We need new ones.

ANGELA

Maybe we need a new tree. One with lights already on it.

JEFF

The tree is fine. You don't get a new tree because your lights don't work. You just get new lights.

ANGELA

Can we get the bubbles?

JEFF

Trouble...

ANGELA

The bubble lights. We had them when Mel was little, and she'd be so surprised if we--

JEFF

Listen, I have an idea. Call her.

ANGELA

I can't just call her. Remember when she was little, Santa would always leave a present in the tree for her to find? Let's do that this year.

JEFF

Sinbad will probably piss on it.

ANGELA

We just used to have traditions.

JEFF

Angela...

ANGELA

Let's get each other presents this year! I know we don't do presents anymore, but we should try again. Remember the year I got you the bowling ball? I spent weeks practicing carrying it so it wouldn't look heavy. And you still knew what it was.

JEFF

I knew you, honey.

ANGELA

Yeah. Remember that?

JEFF

You really want to buy presents?

ANGELA

It'll be fun. We could shop for Melanie together. Have lunch at that little--

JEFF

Remember when men everywhere celebrated the invention of online shopping?

ANGELA

I just want to make her Christmas special. She's probably really homesick by now.

JEFF

Call her.

ANGELA

I don't want to bother her.

JEFF

But it's okay to bother me?

ANGELA

That's different. You're my husband.

JEFF

She's your daughter. You miss her. Call her. Please.

ANGELA

Fine. Sorry I asked you to decorate the tree.

JEFF

(hopefully)

Halftime?

ANGELA

Jeff...

JEFF

Commercials?

ANGELA

Bah humbug.

ANGELA heads to landline, dials.

MELANIE

(v.o.)

Mom? Is everything
okay?!

ANGELA

Hi Melanie. It's
mom.

MELANIE

(v.o.)

I thought Grandma died! Or Daddy.

ANGELA

What, no. Why?

JEFF puts in earbuds and turns on TV to
watch pregame.

MELANIE

(v.o.)

Because you're calling. Nobody just calls with like, no
warning or anything.

ANGELA

I left you messages, but you never called back.

MELANIE

(v.o.)

Nobody checks their messages, Mom.

ANGELA

But I wanted to talk to you.

MELANIE

(v.o.)

I've been studying for finals a lot/

ANGELA

/Oh, I shouldn't bother/

MELANIE

/but we can arrange a time. Text me, okay?

ANGELA

I'm sorry. I just missed you.

MELANIE

(v.o.)

Aw, I miss you too, Mommy. I'll be home for Christmas. That's super soon.

ANGELA

I know.

MELANIE

(v.o.)

So I'll see you then? I can't wait.

ANGELA

Me either. I--

MELANIE

(v.o.)

'Kay, Mom. Love you.

ANGELA stares at phone.

ANGELA

She hung up.

JEFF

YES! I just made the sweetest trade ever.

ANGELA

So do you want to decorate the tree? Jeff?

ANGELA removes one earbud from Jeff's ear, kisses it.

ANGELA (cont'd)

Do you want to decorate the tree?

JEFF

Tree?

ANGELA

C'mon. I made cookies. It would be like--

JEFF

Chocolate chip?

ANGELA

Of course.

JEFF

But it's almost game time, Angel.

(turns on television, pats the couch)

C'mon. Bring the cookies in, and watch with me.

Jeff picks up the remote, turns on TV, removes ear buds.

ANGELA

It's your only day off this week.

JEFF

(eyes on TV)

I know. And after the week I had...

(leans back on couch)

Aaah.

ANGELA

[Sigh] Maybe I'll go Christmas shopping.

JEFF

Are you sure?

ANGELA

She thought you were dead.

JEFF

Who?

ANGELA

Melanie. Because nobody calls. Just... spontaneously, I guess.

JEFF

That's dumb. Kids don't know how to communicate.

ANGELA

"Dashing through the snow, with a one-horse soap and sleigh..." Remember when Melanie wanted me to buy one-horse soap for her bath?

JEFF

(at TV)

No! No!

ANGELA

I ended up finding that My Little Pony--

JEFF

(attacks phone desperately)

I lost another starter.

*ANGELA takes her coat from a coat tree.
Takes bag with Barbie doll in it from
counter, kisses Jeff on the forehead.*

ANGELA

We should buy presents this year.

*ANGELA exits. LIGHTS OUT, with TV light
last seen.*

SCENE 2

STAGE IS DARK BUT FOR STAGE LEFT, WHERE ANGELA STANDS, AS IF IN A DEPARTMENT STORE CUSTOMER SERVICE LINE, LOOKING AT HER DUMB PHONE. PERHAPS A SIGN LOWERS THAT SAYS "CUSTOMER SERVICE." SHE HOLDS HER BAG WITH GIFT TO RETURN. CHRISTMAS MUSIC PLAYS.

KELLY approaches behind Angela.

KELLY

Angela? Is that you?

ANGELA

Hey, Kelly!

KELLY

What is that thing?

ANGELA

My phone?

KELLY

(takes it, looks at it)

Did you get at an antique store?

(hands it back)

How are you?

ANGELA

Not even Christmas, and already returning a present.

KELLY

How does that happen?

ANGELA

Your sister tells you her daughter doesn't want a Ken doll because she heard Barbie and Ken broke up.

KELLY

But they got back together.

ANGELA

They did? When?

KELLY

(shrugs)

It was all over online

(starts looking it up on phone)

like years ago. There you go

(shows Angela the phone)

2011. The thing with Blaine was just a mid-life crisis or something.

ANGELA
So I don't have to return it.

KELLY
Or tell her his name isn't Ken.

ANGELA (pulling it
out of bag)
It says Ken right on the box. Sweet-talking Ken.

KELLY
(looks at doll)
Sweet-talked Barbie into another fifty years.

ANGELA
I'd love to know what he said.

KELLY
Seriously, because have you seen Blaine? He's Australian. And
blond. And this is not the hot Ken I remember.

*KELLY holds Ken next to her face, and
takes selfie with her phone.*

ANGELA
Old flames looks better through a haze of nostalgia-- What are
you doing?

KELLY
Twit pic. Me and my childhood sweetheart.

ANGELA
What's a Twit--

*KELLY shows Angela the phone. Takes it back
and looks at it herself.*

ANGELA (cont'd)
You think I should give it to her anyway?

KELLY
Sure. Oh! Or maybe an iPad. I love presents!

ANGELA
Jeff and I haven't done gifts in years.

KELLY
Bah humbug, missy.

