

Family Hardware

Scene 1

AT RISE: WILLY and KATHERINE's bedroom. They are both sitting up in bed, covered from roughly the waist down. WILLY wears a white T-shirt, KATHERINE a sleep top. A TV is on but muted. A cell phone and TV remote are on a small table next to KATHERINE.

KATHERINE

Anything yet?

(WILLY peeks under the covers.)

WILLY

No.

KATHERINE

You had to look?

WILLY

I can't feel anything down there. Except that my stomach kind of hurts a little.

KATHERINE

I'm sorry, darling. Do you think it's a side effect of the little blue pill you took?

WILLY

I'm not sure. It might just be nerves. Or... I think I got ripped off on those pills.

KATHERINE

Kyle Warren wouldn't rip you off. He's too good a friend. It's the one good thing that came of our only date in high school... I didn't even get a decent hickey.

(Beat.)

WILLY

(Weakly)

Katherine... I didn't go to Dr. Warren.

KATHERINE

Willy! Please tell me you didn't buy those cheap Canadian knock-offs from those late-night TV ads.

WILLY

Of course not. I went to the homeopathic men's clinic. They gave me a trial pack at a discount.

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KATHERINE

What? Why did you go there? You didn't switch health plans again, did you?

WILLY

No. And I'm not going back there, either. It's too intimidating. All the guys there are so young, and fit, and homeo...sexual.

KATHERINE

Homeo-pathic doesn't mean gay. And so what if it did? Since when are you intimidated by gays?

WILLY

I'm not. That's not what I mean. I mean they're... muscular, and constantly bulging all over the place. I feel so tiny. It's like high school all over again.

KATHERINE

(Teasing)

Did the doctors all beat you up and steal your lunch money?

WILLY

They don't have to beat me up anymore. They just take it out of my co-pay.

KATHERINE

Kyle would have given you those for free. Why didn't you just go see him?

WILLY

Well, for one thing, he is somehow Dr. Warren to me, and "Kyle" to you.

KATHERINE

He'll always be Kyle to me. Ever since he let me crib off his biology homework in high school. He made me love biology...

WILLY

(Coughs loudly)

I think those pills might have been expired.

KATHERINE

Check the package.

(WILLY checks his shorts again, then gets out of bed and starts toward the bathroom, stops, holds his abdomen.)

WILLY

Ow!

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KATHERINE

(Concerned)

What is it? Your gall bladder again? Or constipation from eating all those jalapeno cheese poppers?

WILLY

I think I may have a kidney stone.

KATHERINE

Quick, drink a glass of water. And take a painkiller.

WILLY

I can't take painkillers with my allergy medicine.

(WILLY exits to the bathroom. He is wearing tight white briefs. KATHERINE picks up the remote and scans through channels. WILLY returns, drinking a glass of water and reading from an unfolded sheet of paper.)

WILLY

This says they're good for two more years.

KATHERINE

Are there any left? Maybe you didn't take a full dose.

WILLY

No. It's one pill per dose. They gave me three.

KATHERINE

(Aside)

Two more pills, two years... maybe you should freeze them so they don't spoil.

WILLY

Holy cow! Katherine!

KATHERINE, excited, puts down the remote.

KATHERINE

What? Are you getting something?

WILLY checks again.

WILLY

No. ... But this list of possible side effects. Wow!

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KATHERINE

What are they?

WILLY

(Reading)

Abnormal heart rate, high blood pressure, low blood pressure –

KATHERINE

How can it give you both high and low blood pressure?

WILLY

(Reading)

“If your erection lasts longer than four hours, call your Doctor.”

KATHERINE

Honey, if your erection lasts longer than four minutes, I’m calling the Guinness Book of World Records.

WILLY

(Starts toward bed, still reading)

Come on. When is the last time we had sex for less than four minutes?

KATHERINE

2014.

WILLY

See? Over a year ago.

KATHERINE

(Aside)

ALL of 2014... combined.

WILLY

What was that?

KATHERINE

Nothing! Nothing... What else does it say?

WILLY

(Reading)

Jesus. It can affect the kidneys, liver, digestion, hearing, eyesight... it does everything except give me boobs.

KATHERINE

Too bad. If you had your own boobs to play with, you might get excited a little more often.

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WILLY

Not really. I'm not much of a boob man.

KATHERINE

Honey. All men are boob men. Even gay guys love boobs. Hell, so do women.

(She grabs her own, then stops, confused)

Wait. Shouldn't you be doing this? It's been so long, I forget who does what anymore.

WILLY

Hey, keep doing that. I think I'm getting something.

(He checks again, sets the water down, then jumps into bed.)

I am! Let's go.

KATHERINE

Willy, for heaven's sake. Can't you romance me, just a little?

WILLY climbs on top of her under the covers.

WILLY

What if it doesn't last? I'd hate to wait another whole year.

KATHERINE

(Aside)

Or, you know, twenty minutes.

WILLY

The Packers game is on in fifteen minutes. Come on, take these off.

WILLY fumbles under the covers.

KATHERINE

Willy, come on. Even for you, this isn't much foreplay.

WILLY stops fumbling.

WILLY

I'm sorry. What should I do?

KATHERINE

Uh... kiss me? Touch me a little?

(WILLY kisses her quickly and grabs under the covers.)

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WILLY

Okay, we good?

KATHERINE

Oh for heaven's sake. Fine. Just do... whatever.

(WILLY starts humping, eyes shut. KATHERINE stares up at the ceiling. WILLY suddenly clutches at his chest and collapses onto the bed with a painful groan.)

KATHERINE

We might want to check, but I'm pretty sure that was less than four minutes.

(WILLY doesn't respond.)

KATHERINE

Willy? ... Are you okay? ... Willy?

(WILLY lies still on the bed.)

KATHERINE

Willy!

(Katherine slides out from under WILLY, jumps out of bed, grabs a cell phone, dials 9-1-1, sits next to WILLY.)

KATHERINE

(Nearly hysterical)

Hello. I need an ambulance. I think my husband has just had a heart attack!

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Scene 2

DOCTOR's office, the next day. WILLY and KATHERINE are seated about 1 chair-width apart in a sterile patient treatment room. WILLY wears a hospital gown and white socks. KATHERINE wears a knee-length dress and heels. There is a vacant chair near KATHERINE. WILLY looks nervous and depressed. KATHERINE fusses with her cell phone. WILLY shivers and exhales loudly.

WILLY

What could be taking him so long?

KATHERINE

He's probably studying your chart. Or maybe he's with other patients.

WILLY

And charging every one of us for his time, I'll bet.

KATHERINE

He won't be charging us. He'll be charging our insurance.

WILLY

Oh sure. Blame Obamacare for this too.

KATHERINE

Honey, I'm not –

(DOCTOR KYLE WARREN enters, holding a clipboard and a pen. He's dressed in a white lab coat over a white shirt, tie, dress slacks. WILLY and KATHERINE stand. WILLY fights to keep the gown closed in back.)

DOCTOR

Sorry to keep you waiting. Please sit down, make yourselves comfortable. We have a lot to discuss.

WILLY

That's okay. I'd rather stand.

DOCTOR

Do you mind if I sit?

KATHERINE

(Slides over to make room for him)

Not at all.

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(DOCTOR and KATHERINE sit close to each other. KATHERINE smiles at the DOCTOR. WILLY, after a few beats, sits also.)

DOCTOR

I have good news and bad news. Mostly good.

KATHERINE

Oh boy. On MedTV, if there's good news from a doctor, it's always the same. "You'll live. But..."

WILLY

But what?

KATHERINE

That's always the bad news.

WILLY

Doc, just tell us in the way that makes the most sense.

DOCTOR

Willy, to be blunt... you're not going to die.

KATHERINE

See?

DOCTOR

... I don't think.

WILLY

Holy shit.

DOCTOR

Not right away, anyway.

KATHERINE

(Takes Willy's hand)

Oh my God. Honey!

WILLY

Thank you, darling... Wait a minute, Doc. Is that the good news, or the bad?

DOCTOR

That's the good news. Well, part of it. Tell me, when you felt the pain in your chest... what were you doing at the time?

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(WILLY and KATHERINE exchange embarrassed glances.)

WILLY

We were, uh... it happened in, um, bed.

DOCTOR

So you were exerting yourself?

WILLY Yes. (SIMULT) KATHERINE No.

KATHERINE
(Looking guilty)

Yes. Yes we were. Very much so.

DOCTOR

How long had you been, um... engaged in, er...

WILLY About twenty minutes. (SIMULT) KATHERINE About twenty seconds.

KATHERINE

Several... minutes.

DOCTOR
(Coughs)

The evidence suggests that you suffered a mild to moderate heart attack.

WILLY
(To KATHERINE)

You see! I told you I wasn't faking!

KATHERINE
(Aside)

Yeah, well, I was.

WILLY

What does "mild to moderate" mean?

DOCTOR

There's been some damage. The heart tissue is weakened. The risk of a more serious myocardial infarction is elevated.

WILLY

The risk of what is what?

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KATHERINE

I think he means you could have another heart attack. Right, Doc?

DOCTOR

Correct. The risk is exacerbated by any sort of exertion, or even by unusual emotional swings or high stress. You'll need to avoid any activity of that sort.

WILLY

As in, what we were doing when it happened?

KATHERINE

(Aside)

Or weren't actually doing...

DOCTOR

That, or anything that could elevate your heart rate or cause you stress. I recommend you take a break from running your business for a while, if you can.

KATHERINE

I agree. Willy, I think you'd better call Monica.

WILLY

Monica? I would hope that you and the kids could help –

KATHERINE

I don't know anything about running a hardware store. The kids can't leave their jobs, drop everything, drive 300 miles – and where would they live? Besides, Monica's worked there, what, twenty years?

WILLY

Thirty. Dad hired her before he even hired me.

KATHERINE

See? She deserves a chance. Who do you trust more?

WILLY

No one.

KATHERINE

Besides me, of course.

WILLY

... Of course.