

KAREN (CONT'D)

Anyway, I'm looking forward to seeing you and Nancy tonight, Arthur.

Arthur notices the flowers.

ARTHUR

By the way, nice flowers. I'll bet if you rearranged them differently they'd look almost real.

KAREN

Yes. I've been told that.

Karen EXITS.

HENRY

Now, Arthur, what is it that has you so upset?

ARTHUR

Henry, It seems my wife Nancy is cheating on me.

HENRY

No?

ARTHUR

Yes. There's no doubt about it. When she goes shopping she's not home until well after the stores close. She takes all her calls in private and last night she came home without any panties.

HENRY

That's not a good sign, is it?

ARTHUR

On the contrary, Henry, it's a great sign.

HENRY

I don't understand.

ARTHUR

I've been wanting to dump her for years.

(MORE)

START

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

I just didn't want to give her any money. Now, it looks like that's a possibility. What I want from you Henry are pictures, dates, taped phone calls, the whole works.

HENRY

Wait a minute, Arthur. That's a very seedy assignment. First of all, it's not the kind of detective work I care to do and secondly I don't think it would be ethical of me to take the case. You and Nancy are both very good friends of mine.

ARTHUR

Ethics shmethics. Still, that's exactly why I came to you. If anything, you are a man of ethics. I know you'll be much more delicate in handling the situation. I don't want this to end up in a vicious mud slinging, reputation ruining mess which quite honestly I'm prepared to engage in if I have to. Look, I knew when I married Nancy she was a tramp.

HENRY

So why did you marry her?

ARTHUR

I just told you. She was a tramp. Come on, Henry. Didn't you ever date a tramp before? There's nothing more fun. But now it's time to move on. So, okay, what's your going rate, Henry? Give me your bottom price and we can negotiate from there.

HENRY

I'm sorry, Arthur, I can't take the case but just for the record my fee is a thousand dollars a day plus expenses and it's not negotiable.

ARTHUR

Really?

(MORE)

END