

# JONATHAN, PHYLLIS

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BAGGAGE

What about love on my part? Well, I've been living without it so far and as you can see, it hasn't affected me in the least. But it's time for me to settle down and I do believe Bradley and I can have a very nice life together. I promise you, it's going to work out fine. I'll have to write the airlines a thank you note.

(Jonathan ENTERS from the wings.)



JONATHAN. Excuse me! Excuse me.

PHYLLIS. (*Confused*) Yes?

JONATHAN. How do you do. I'm Doctor Jonathan Alexander. I'm a professional, licensed psychologist with degrees from many prestigious Universities, a B.A., an M.A., a PHD, etcetera, etcetera. The audience already met me. I deal mainly in couples counseling and have written a number of books on the subject.

PHYLLIS. And what seems to be the problem?

JONATHAN. I need to warn you Miss Novak, you are in very dangerous territory. You and Mr. Naughton obviously seemed destined to wind up together at the end of the play.

PHYLLIS. Yes. That's the idea. Of course, the fun is in getting there. The audience expects it and actually looks forward to it.

JONATHAN. Yes, but you need to know that after the play ends, when you do begin going through life together...

PHYLLIS. Yes. What about it?

JONATHAN. Well, as I already told the audience, it's going to be a disaster. If there ever were two people so wrong for each other, it's you two. You're day and night.

PHYLLIS. Yes, I know that. But didn't you hear what I was just...

(*Indicates audience*)

...telling them? I'm going to change him. I'm going to make him into the perfect man for me. Yes, I'm sure we'll hit a few rough spots along the way, but I'm prepared for that. And as long as I control the ship, I'll

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make sure we avoid all rocks and reefs.

JONATHAN. Oh, boy. If there's anyone that needs to read my books, it's you. Miss Novak, try to understand this. In a good relationship there is no one in control, there is no one trying to change the other person. I'll tell you what. My books sell for twenty-five dollars each. Take all three, I'll let you have them for fifty-nine ninety-five tax included.

PHYLLIS. I'm sorry. I'm really not interested.

JONATHAN. Okay. How about all three for an even fifty? I'll also throw in an autographed picture.

PHYLLIS. It's not the price or your picture. I just feel I know what I'm doing and where I'm going with this situation and there's really no need for me to read any books.

JONATHAN. You're a very stubborn woman.

PHYLLIS. I like to think of myself as determined.

JONATHAN. I'm just trying to save you a lot of grief down the road. Look, do me a favor.

*(Hands her a business card)*

Take my card. Before this is over, chances are good you're going to need to seek professional help. I charge two-hundred and fifty an hour.

PHYLLIS. Two-fifty? I'd have to be crazy to pay that kind of money.

JONATHAN. Exactly.

*(He EXITS. Phyllis looks at the card)*

PHYLLIS. *(To audience)* Here's my problem with therapy. In today's world, I'm not so sure mental health is such a good thing?

*(She sticks the card in her pocket)*

All right. Back to business. First date with Bradley. Going to the movies.

*(The lights darken. Phyllis is now in a pool of light. Bradley comes out pulling two stools. He now is in a grey sweater)*

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