

JERRY

DONNA

Leo

Page 46

THE CHRISTMAS EXPRESS

Act II

JERRY. I'll tell you your problem. You're a woman!

DONNA & PENELOPE. Hey!

LEO. Beware that tack, matey, yer headin' fer a reef.

SATCH. This ought to be good.

DONNA. *That's my problem? I'm a woman? Just what were you planning on marrying?*

JERRY. You know what I mean. You *always* let your feelings get in the way of good sense. You argue with me on everything, you're hardheaded and you never listen to reason. Now what does that sound like?

DONNA. Your mother.

JERRY (*realizing it*). Oh, yeah! (*Trying again.*) And she's a woman too!

LEO (*holding an ornament*). Jerry. (*He nods for JERRY to come over to him. As JERRY crosses to him, LEO hands the ornament to PENELOPE and she and SATCH continue decorating the tree.*) Let's get a fresh look at this thing. What started the argument between you two?

JERRY (*defiantly*). What started it? I'll *tell* you what started it. (*He deflates.*) I don't know what started it. (*HILDA hangs up the phone.*)

LEO. Well, let's just try to get to the bottom of this. (*He moves JERRY over to the couch and forces him to sit. DONNA moves further down the couch to get away from him.*) Donna, why don't you talk this out calmly.

DONNA. I don't see how it's any of your business.

LEO. You almost got me in a fist fight with your husband. Don't you think that entitles me to say something right about here?

DONNA (*weakens*). I'm sorry about that. (*Glares at JERRY.*) But that's all!

LEO (*behind the couch*). Fine. Now, why did you marry Jerry?

DONNA. What?

LEO. Simple question of motive. Why did you marry him?

DONNA. I...I don't know right now.

LEO. You married him because you fell in love with him.

And why? Because he seemed so helpless.

DONNA. Well, I guess, in the beginning...

JERRY. What do you mean, I seemed so helpless?

DONNA (*smiles*). Well, you did. Clothes were never ironed, you were always eating out, you couldn't manage your money...

JERRY. I did all right.

LEO (*shakes his head at JERRY*). No, you didn't.

JERRY. What?

DONNA. You were always losing things.

JERRY. Like what?

LEO (*leans in*). Like her, if you don't shut up.

JERRY. Well, will you *please* answer me this? Why are you mad at me?

DONNA. You don't know?

JERRY. No.

DONNA. You *really* don't know?

JERRY. No.

DONNA (*after a slight pause*). You *really* don't know.

JERRY (*to LEO*). This what you mean by us talking it out?

LEO. Say no.

JERRY (*back to DONNA*). No.

DONNA. Well...

PENELOPE (*to SATCH*). Here it comes.

DONNA. If you don't know, I'm not going to tell you! (*She crosses her arms. HILDA is all smiles as she moves over to LEO.*)

LEO. Just try to think, Jerry. Back when the argument started.

JERRY. O-kay! (*He gets a confused look on his face.*)