

Bagels

Art Shulman





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BAGELS

by

Art Schulman

CAST

RACHEL: A woman 55-65

JAKE: A man about the same age

Place

Jake's apartment.

Time

The present.

Setting: Jake's living room.

*At rise: RACHEL, in a very large bathrobe, folds the bedding that was on the couch.
JAKE enters, holding a dish containing a bagel.*

JAKE: It's still snowing.

RACHEL: I've never seen it snow this hard so early in November.

JAKE: I'm glad you stayed, Rachel.

RACHEL: The only reason I stayed is because it's dangerous out there. Someone could easily slip and break a hip.

JAKE: You have nice hips.

RACHEL: Sure. But you should set your mind on some other subject.

JAKE: I was just giving you a compliment.

RACHEL: You could have complimented my smile. It would have been more accurate. Thanks for letting me use your robe.

JAKE: You look good in it. (*RACHEL smirks –Yeah, right!*) It belonged to Laura...my wife. She was big! All around. Fat, really.

RACHEL: Why haven't you thrown it away?

JAKE: Why? It's in good shape and you never know when you'll need it for a woman staying the night. (*beat*) Sleep well?

RACHEL: I slept fine. And Jake, thanks for being considerate enough to let me sleep here. On the couch.

JAKE: You could have used my bed.

RACHEL: You didn't offer to sleep on the couch, allowing me the bed.

JAKE: I did explain that my temperamental back is not compatible with sleeping on that couch.

RACHEL: Of course. I do feel somewhat strange, sleeping over at the apartment of a man I've just met.

JAKE: Just sleeping, though. (*beat*) Computerized matching is not just the wave of the future. It's here now. But I think they made a mistake this time.

RACHEL: Agreed.

JAKE: Don't you feel a little weird, meeting people through the computer? Being set up by a machine?

RACHEL: You're right. The traditional ways of meeting people are so much superior -- frequenting bars...

JAKE: Blind dates set up by well-meaning friends who think they know what's best for you.

RACHEL: Singles mixers.

JAKE: High society charity balls.

RACHEL: Accidentally bumping your supermarket cart into someone attractive.

JAKE: Then why did we both resort to computerized matching?

RACHEL: It's the modern way.

JAKE: Actually, this whole dating scene is very strange to me. Even after doing it for several years now.

RACHEL: Me, too. We just don't want to be alone *out there*.

JAKE: But dating is fun, isn't it?

RACHEL: Very. Thanks for bringing me my bagel.

JAKE: This is my bagel. Yours is in the kitchen.

RACHEL: Is it still in the toaster?

JAKE: No, I took it out. It popped out when it was done, and I put my bagel in. Yours is on the counter. (*RACHEL exits to the kitchen*) What's wrong?

RACHEL: (*O.S.*) Nothing.

JAKE: What's wrong, Rachel?

(*RACHEL reenters with her bagel*)

RACHEL: Your lack of caring, Jake. I didn't expect it.

JAKE: What lack of caring?

RACHEL: You could have said something like, "Rachel, I'm taking your bagel out of the toaster."

JAKE: You were in here.

RACHEL: You could have yelled.

JAKE: I was humming when I was preparing my bagel. It's what I do in the morning. It's hard to hum and talk at the same time, much less hum and yell.

RACHEL: It's okay. Your bagel is more important than mine.

JAKE: I put yours right where you could see it. In the kitchen. In case you wanted cream cheese.

RACHEL: And after I was caring enough to leave the good bagel for you!

JAKE: What 'good' bagel?

RACHEL: Yours has more sesame seeds than mine.

JAKE: That's because yours is an *onion* bagel.

RACHEL: It is not. See, it's a sesame. I told you I chose the one with the fewest sesame seeds.

JAKE: Okay. So, that makes me selfish?

RACHEL: No, I was the one who chose the lesser bagel. Because I cared.

JAKE: Thanks for your supreme sacrifice. (*beat*) I don't look at a bagel and venture a guess as to the number of sesame seeds, or notice that one is heavy or light on sesame seeds.

RACHEL: That's another thing. Ever since I've known you, you don't seem to notice anything important.

JAKE: You've known me less than twelve hours. (*beat*) The number of sesame seeds on a bagel is important?

RACHEL: Not per se. It's just an example. I thought you'd be more observant. eMatchmaker.com matching service said we matched on just about all one hundred dimensions.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!