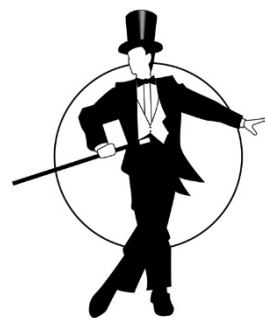


# Chicken or Meatloaf?

Eric Weil



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CHICKEN OR MEATLOAF?

Eric Weil

CAST

CHUCK: Husband, in his 50's - 60's

CAROL: Wife, in her 50's - 60's

Place

Living room of Chuck and Carol's middle-class home.

Time

The present. Late one afternoon.

CHICKEN OR MEATLOAF?

*At Rise: CHUCK sits on the sofa, reading the newspaper. Enter CAROL, dish towel in hand. She speaks rapid-fire.*

CAROL: What do you want for supper, Chuck? I could make us a nice juicy meatloaf or I could roast the chicken breasts I got yesterday? Bake us each a big ole potato?

CHUCK: Meatloaf. *(barely gets his answer in as CAROL takes a breath)*

CAROL: Except the ground beef is still frozen and the chicken breasts are in the meat drawer. I never put them in the freezer yesterday when I got home with them.

CHUCK: Chicken then.

CAROL: Although I guess I could defrost the ground beef in the microwave and save the chicken for tomorrow, it really wouldn't make much of a difference you know, either way?

CHUCK: Okay.

CAROL: Okay thaw the ground beef for the meatloaf or okay chicken? Because I'll fix whichever one you want today and we'll have the other one tomorrow.

CHUCK: Okay, meatloaf.

CAROL: Except now that I'm thinking about it I really think we ought to have the chicken tonight and save the meatloaf for tomorrow, I'll get the ground beef out of the freezer right now so it'll be ready by tomorrow, but we'll just go ahead and have the chicken today, okay?

CHUCK: Okay.

CAROL: Okay then. I'm glad that's settled.

CHUCK: But Carol?

CAROL: Yes, dear?

CHUCK: Why did you ask me which one I wanted, meatloaf or chicken, when you'd already decided on the chicken?

CAROL: But I hadn't already decided on the chicken rather than the meatloaf.

CHUCK: Really?

CAROL: Really. I wanted your input so we could decide together what to have tonight.

CHUCK: Because if you had just said, "We're having chicken tonight," I'd have said, "fine."

CAROL: No, you wouldn't. You'd have said, "Chicken again?"

CHUCK: Maybe. We do have chicken a lot.

CAROL: It's better for us than all that red meat.

CHUCK: You do this all the time, you know.

CAROL: What do I do all the time?

CHUCK: You let me think I have a choice but you've already decided and no matter what I pick, you turn it to the choice you want.

CAROL: It's not like that at all. You're still going to get your meatloaf. Tomorrow.

CHUCK: I really do appreciate that you do the cooking. The weird thing is that through all of our years of marriage, I never seem to pick the dinner you want to cook.

CAROL: I can still make meatloaf tonight if that's what you want.

CHUCK: I don't think I have ever once in our whole marriage picked the one you want.

CAROL: I'm sure you have. And I'll be happy to fix meatloaf tonight.

CHUCK: Chicken is fine.

CAROL: It's really no trouble to defrost the ground beef for tonight. I can still do it.

CHUCK: Chicken is fine!

CAROL: Just takes a couple minutes in the microwave and I'm sure the chicken will still be almost as fresh tomorrow.

CHUCK: I changed my mind! I want chicken tonight!

CAROL: No you don't. You have that tone of voice.

CHUCK: Carol! I would love to have the chicken today. Really. Meatloaf tomorrow.

CAROL: Well, okay. If that's what you really want.

CHUCK: That's what I really want.

CAROL: Chicken?

CHUCK: Chicken.

CAROL: Well, okay then. Chicken.

CHUCK: Chicken.

*(Pause)*

CAROL: Chuck?

CHUCK: Uh huh?

CAROL: I love you.

CHUCK: That's good to know.

CAROL: Chuck!

CHUCK: What? I love you too.

THE END