

A script from



“Don’t Feed the Rat”

by
Curt Cloninger

- What** Two women, Nancy and Marci, meet in the hallway at work. Marci is very distracted. Nancy asks Marci what the problem is, and Marci reveals that she’s been hanging on to a part of her past that is weighing her down. (Themes: Freedom, Past, Sin, Living in Present, Victory, Distractions, Letting Go)
- Who** Nancy
Marci
- When** Present day
- Wear (Props)** The setting is in an office hallway, so anything you can do to make it look like one is great. Briefcases for each actor.
- Why** Romans 6
- How** Dialogue should be casual and the actors should be comfortable with one another. Keep the pacing up, especially towards the end. There is an abrupt ending, which will lend to the humor.
- Time** Approximately 3-5 minutes

Two women, **Nancy** and **Marci**, meet at the office door as they both leave from work. They both carry briefcases and are obviously executive types.

- Nancy:** Hey Marci, how'd your day go? You making any progress on that DayStar proposal?
- Marci:** Yeah, sorta. The thing's a black hole. I just can't seem to get ahead on it. Thanks for asking though....
- Nancy:** Sure ... no problem. *(concerned, but not pushy)* Hey Marc, it seems like you've been a little ... distracted lately.
- Marci:** Distracted? *(a bit hesitant to reveal anything)* Oh, I don't know.
- Nancy:** Has Jackson loaded you up with more accounts since the layoffs?
- Marci:** Oh, no more than anybody else. It's just ---
- Nancy:** *(interrupting)* You need me to put in a good word for you with Jackson?
- Marci:** No ... no, I'm fine, really. Work's actually going pretty well.
- Nancy:** *(fishing for the real problem)* So... how's your love life?
- Marci:** *(chuckles)* Distracting.
- Nancy:** You still going out with that guy?
- Marci:** Jeff?
- Nancy:** Yeah, Jeff. The salesman, right?
- Marci:** Yeah, the salesman.
- Nancy:** So... are you still dating him?
- Marci:** No. I'm definitely NOT still dating him.
- Nancy:** *(still fishing)* So ... is that good news?
- Marci:** Oh yeah, that's definitely good news.
- Nancy:** So, are you dating somebody else?
- Marci:** Nope.
- Nancy:** *(still fishing; trying to understand the problem)* But you're kind of a little..."iffy" about breaking up with Jeff?

Marci: No! Not at all. Breaking up with Jeff is the best thing I ever did. The guy was a total jerk. All he did was drag me down. I mean, this guy was totally self-absorbed. The whole time I dated him we only did stuff that he wanted to do. And all of it was lousy stuff. I mean, lousy stuff. The guy thought the whole world revolved around him. I've never known a more self-centered, insensitive, jerk!

Nancy: Then why in the world did you date him?

Marci: I have no idea. I must've been out of my mind. The guy was a total rodent.

Nancy: *(having a realization)* Wait a minute! Is this the same Jeff who gave you the white rat for a birthday present?

Marci: The very Jeff.

Nancy: What kind of idiot would give a grown woman a rat for a birthday present?

Marci: Jeff. He likes rats. It didn't really matter to him that I hated rats. He thought it would be fun to give me a rat. And on top of that, he expected me to take care of it! A rat! A disgusting rat!

Nancy: *(laughs)* Honey! You don't need to be distracted! What you need to do is celebrate. *(making a decision)* I am taking you out right after work! We are gonna celebrate "Freedom from Jeff Day". When'd you break up with him?

Marci: Two months ago.

Nancy: Alright! We're gonna celebrate "Freedom from Jeff Two Months". You need a party is what you need. You are a free woman! You need to live like it! No more rats in your future! Now, you name the restaurant and I'm buying! Any place in town. This calls for a celebration!

Marci: *(hesitant)* Uh... I don't know...

Nancy: What, you've already got plans?

Marci: *(still hesitant)* Yeah...sorta...

Nancy: What, you got a date?

Marci: *(still hesitant)* No... not exactly...

Nancy: A meeting?

Marci: No...not exactly...