

A script from



“Lowered Expectations”

by
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What	A newlywed couple meets their church assigned jaded mentor couple for the first time. Themes: Newlyweds, Mentoring, Expectations, Valentine’s Day
Who	John-older husband Carol-older wife Jacob-newlywed husband Melissa-newlywed wife
When	Present
Wear (Props)	Living Room furniture Newspaper Plate of hors d’oeuvres Bowl of water Sound: door bell
Why	1 Corinthians 13, Ephesians 5:33
How	The mentor couple should be played in a fun way, but completely grounded in their own jaded views of marriage. The newlywed couple should be played naïve, but ironically more in touch with what a marriage is and should be.
Time	Approximately 6-7 Minutes

John is sitting in a chair with a newspaper in front of him.

Carol: *(Making the last minute adjustments before her guests arrive)* What do you think? Should I put the hors d'oeuvres here or there?

John: *(Grunts something unintelligible)*

Carol: What did you say?

John: *(Grunts again)*

Carol: Would you please put down that stupid paper? You've been reading it all day. Aren't you finished yet? I need your help. John? John! Please.

John: *(Putting paper away)* Alright. Alright. What do you want me to do?

Carol: Help me straighten this house before Melissa and Jacob get here.

John: What are you talking about? You've been cleaning it all day.

Carol: My point exactly. Would you put away that paper?

John: *(Folds paper and puts it under the couch cushion)*

Carol: Oh no not there. Have you lost your mind?

John: *(Straightens pillow)*

Carol: *(Straightens it a different way)*

John: Why do I even bother?

Carol: When do you bother? I am so sick of trying to do everything around here by myself, you... *(Phone rings, answers in sweet, almost singing voice)* Hello? Great. We're so excited you two are coming over. Okay great. See you in a moment. *(Back to the mean voice)* Okay, get this straight. Once again the church has asked that we mentor a young couple in truth and grace. Here's your truth, you make a jerk out of yourself tonight and you're going to be calling your Aunt Grace to feed you through a straw. Got it, pumpkin? *(Door bell rings)* Coming. *(Straightens his clothes, grabs the newspaper and shoves it under the same cushion. Melissa and Jacob enter holding hands; Carol quickly separates them physically)* Melissa, don't you look beautiful? You've got that newlywed glow.

John: *(Under his breath)* And I've got that 20-year itch.

- Carol:** *(Steps back on John's toe and shoots him a look)* Jacob, you look more handsome than ever. Married life is really agreeing with you.
- John:** And it is really disagreeing with me.
- Carol:** Oh, that John is so silly. Come with me Melissa and tell me everything about the honeymoon. Okay maybe not everything. *(Sits her stage right)*
- John:** Come on, Jacob, my man, I think it is time you know the facts. *(Sitting him stage left)*
- Carol:** Now you be gracious, John.
- John:** So let's cut to the chase, there's a game on in ten minutes. Now that you're home from your honeymoon, how do you feel boy?
- Jacob:** Boy, what are you talking about? I feel like a man.
- John:** Well that's all going to change.
- Jacob:** What?
- John:** Yeah, boy, the church asked us to mentor a younger couple, so I feel it is my God given responsibility to inform you that you, my friend, are now not your own....
- Jacob:** ...and the great thing is, I know that. We are now one.
- John:** No boy, you are not your own- you are hers.
- Melissa:** Yes, his and her towels. They are so precious. Before I met Jacob I thought things like that were so... well I thought they were so...well to be honest they made me nauseous; all that cheesy stuff...but now... I don't know...he even likes that kind of stuff...can you believe...
- Carol:** Dear, I feel it is my God given responsibility to warn you that he will not always love that sort of thing and neither will you.
- Melissa:** What?
- Carol:** Yes, dear. Each year we mentor a young couple and I always empower her with two words...lowered expectations.

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ENDING:

John: And the less fighting, the more the...

Carol: spending, but the more the spending the more the...

John: fighting. But pretty soon you'll learn how to hide behind your paper and...

Carol: grunt. Get used to the grunting. Men are experts at...

John: ...shopping. Women are experts at...

Carol: ...staying late at work. The longer he stays

John: ...the better.

Jacob: Speaking of better, your game is about to come on and I think we better get going. Melissa?

John: Oh no stick around. We'll tell them we're building shelves in the basement, then we can just go down there and watch the game...

Jacob: Oh, I...

Melissa: ...think it's time to go.

Carol: So soon? You haven't touched a hors d'oeuvre.

Melissa: *(Cramming several in her mouth)* Mmmmm, delicious. Are you ready?

Jacob: We should go, we have church tomorrow and we have to get up at 4:00 am to get a place to park.

Melissa: Yeah, see you. *(They dash)*

John: *(Goes back to his paper)*

Carol: Well, they were cute...don't you think?

John: *(Grunts)*

Carol: Me too.

Fade to black.

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