

THE BOWL OF SOUP

by Terry Roueche

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

HE: In his 40s or 50s. Numb. Very dry and paced. Doesn't rush. Shows little emotion.

SHE: SHE is leaving, packed, dressed, and ready to go. Her manner is almost calm, almost numb, only SHE is anxious about what possibly awaits her.

Place

A table

Time

Present

The Set: Three chairs at a table.

At Rise: SHE places her gloves, hat, and coat on a chair. A suitcase is beside the chair. HE is seated, waiting to eat a bowl of soup. The two are calm, matter of fact. There are five eggs on the table. HE plays with one absently. SHE slides a bowl of soup towards him. HE eats his soup loudly.

SHE
You must think I'm out of my mind.

HE
I couldn't know.

(HE's about to crack the egg)

SHE
I wouldn't break that; you could end up making a mess.

HE
With the egg you mean?

SHE
It could make a real mess.

HE
They're not boiled?

SHE
Some are.

HE

I'll be careful then.

SHE

I'm not sure which ones I boiled, and which ones I didn't.

HE

Oh.

SHE

They rolled around together when I wasn't looking. I got them all confused.

HE

Oh.

SHE

I was going to make you egg salad.

HE

Can you shake them and tell anything?

SHE

No.

HE

Oh.

SHE

I was sure I had one boiled and I cracked it. I had to change my dress. I'll get that dress one day.

HE

I like what you're wearing now. You look very nice.

SHE

Thank you.

(Pause)

No egg salad, though. Sorry. Just the soup.

HE

Didn't we have egg salad last week?

SHE

We've had it weekly for a number of years.

HE

Have we?

SHE

I know how much you like it. I wanted to make it for you, once more.

HE

That was considerate of you.

SHE

Just not enough time.

HE

Oh.

SHE

Not with me having to change.

HE

Soup's fine. I do like soup, too.

(Pause. HE eats)

SHE

So.

(Playfully, nudges him)

Hey, you. That soup good?

HE

Um-umm. Very good.

SHE

I made you a pot. Vegetable beef.

HE

Good. A pot.

SHE

On the stove. All for you. You might freeze some.

HE

Good idea.

SHE

Make sure you turn the stove off.

HE

Go ahead and turn it off. In case I forget.

SHE

Do you want salt and pepper?

HE

No, it's fine. Just right, like it is.

SHE

Tell me I'm doing the right thing.

HE

It's the thing you're doing, so.

SHE

You always try and see things in such a positive manner.

HE

I try to.

SHE

No turning back now.

HE

No. No turning back now.

SHE

This wasn't such a surprise?

HE

Not really. No. I'd say I wasn't so surprised. Just it did seem to come out of the blue, didn't it? You meet that one time.

SHE

Floored me.

HE

Did it?

SHE

Yes.

HE

