

THE RIGHT APPROACH

(A Ten-Minute Comedy)

by

George Freek

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THE RIGHT APPROACH

THE CHARACTERS

EVE, A profesional women, 20s

MS GRUNDY, Her Boss, 50

MR ARCHER, A client, 30

THE SETTING

A pleasant, tastefully decorated waiting room

THE TIME

The Present

THE RIGHT APPROACH

*(AT RISE: MS GRUNDY in a stylish blouse
And skirt is sitting on a luxurious sofa,
Adding up a large pile of bank notes on the
Table in front of her. EVE enters,
Buttoning her blouse, which is very similar
To the one which MS GRUNDY is wearing)*

EVE

Why, hello, Ms Gundy; I wasn't expecting to see you tonight.

MS GRUNDY

(Smiling) I'm doing the accounts. Elaine is making the final arrangements for her wedding.

EVE

I hope she'll be very happy.

MS GRUNDY

She's marrying Mr Giles, that nice police sergeant. You might remember him.

EVE

Sure I do. He always behaved like a gentleman. But this is a lucky break for me. I've been hoping for a chance to ask you. Has Elaine's job been filled yet?

MS GRUNDY

No. Were you interested, Eve?

EVE

If you have time, I'd like to discuss it.

MS GRUNDY

Of course—But I hope that doesn't mean you're unhappy in your present position. (She chuckles) Excuse that awful pun.

EVE

(Chuckles, less heartily) I'm not complaining, Ms Gundy. It's just that I've been doing the same thing night in, night out for five years now—

MS GRUNDY

That's right. You came to us straight out of college, didn't you? Vassar, wasn't it?

EVE

Harvard—But the thing is I'm beginning to feel like I'm in a rut. Oops, excuse *my* pun. Anyway, what I'm saying is it's getting harder and harder to work up any enthusiasm, if you know what I mean?

MS GRUNDY

Don't I, though? You know I started at the bottom myself, dear. It took me quite a few years to work myself up to the top.

EVE

I feel I've done all I can do in my present position.

MS GRUNDY

I understand. And I admire your ambition. Frankly, I was already considering you as Elaine's replacement.

EVE

You were!

MS GRUNDY

Why not—You're well educated, and you're also intelligent. In fact, my only reservation is I'm not sure how you'd handle a serious crisis.

EVE

(Shakes her head) But I've never *had* to deal with one.

MS GRUNDY

I'm sure that's speaks well for your tact. Of course, we don't normally have a crisis. After all, we cater to a high-class, sophisticated clientele. But sometimes they do occur, and as you know, dealing with those occasional difficulties is one of the more important aspects of Elaine's job.

EVE

I'm sure you have more important things to worry about.

MS GRUNDY

If you only knew! There are times when I envy the girl whose only worry is making a client happy!

*(MR ARCHER now enters, fixing his tie.
He affects a supercilious manner.)*

EVE

(Pleasantly) Hello, Mr Archer—I'm sure you know Ms Gundy.

MR ARCHER

(Nods brusquely) Yes, I do—Good evening. (He is about to rush out).

EVE

(Still smiling pleasantly) Just a minute, Mr Archer—I believe you forgot something. (He looks at her) I don't think I collected for services rendered.

MR ARCHER

(Summons up all the indignation in him) No, you did not—because I'm not going to pay!

EVE

(Stares in amazement) Excuse me?

MR ARCHER

You heard me! I—I wasn't satisfied!

EVE

(A look of amazement) I'm sorry about that, Mr Archer. But honestly, I find that hard to believe.

MR ARCHER

I'm not interested in what you believe—so good night! (He starts off)

MS GRUNDY

(Commandingly) Just one minute!

MR ARCHER

(Stops cold) Yes?

MS GRUNDY

You have a right to fill out a dissatisfied customer report, Mr—

MR ARCHER

That won't be necessary.

MS GRUNDY

I was *saying* you have the right to fill out a dissatisfied customer report, but before you leave you will pay the amount agreed to in your consumer's contract.

MR ARCHER

Oh I will, will I? And if I don't, what will you do? Call the police? (He snorts derisively).

MS GRUNDY

That is *exactly* what we will do!

MR ARCHER

(Surprised, he looks nervously at her) You're bluffing.

MS GRUNDY

Eve! Ring the station, and ask for Sergeant Giles. *He's* never given us any trouble with the customer contract.

EVE

(To MR ARCHER, shrugs and reaches for her phone) I'm awfully sorry.

MR ARCHER

(Begins to crumble) Wait! Wait a minute, please—I'm sure we can settle this among ourselves, can't we?

MS GRUNDY

That can be done very easily. Simply pay what you owe.

MR ARCHER

(Defeated) Look, Ms Gumby—

MS GRUNDY

(Outraged) Grundy!

MR ARCHER

(Almost cowering) *Grundy*, of course—Listen, I'm really sorry about the way I just acted—

MS GRUNDY

Your apology will be accepted and this can all be forgotten just as soon as you settle your account. And as I said if you weren't satisfied with your service, the dissatisfied customer forms are always available—

MR ARCHER

No, the service was *incredibly* satisfactory. (To EVE) I'm sorry I said that. The problem is—It's really embarrassing, but I might as well come out and admit it. I spent a lot of money on other things tonight. (He smiles pathetically) And you know how it is, I suddenly realized I didn't have enough cash on me.

MS GUNDY

But heavens, Mr Archer, that's no problem.

MR ARCHER

It's not? So you mean I can just pay next time? Wow, I really appreciate—

MS GRUNDY

We accept all major credit cards.

MR ARCHER

Oh.

MS GRUNDY

Of course you have one of those. (She laughs, looking at EVE) Unless he tries to make us believe his wallet was stolen. (They laugh).

MR ARCHER

(Lamely joining in the laugh) No, no—Um, will this do? (He offers her a card).

MS GRUNDY

That's fine.