

**GENERATIONS APART
DIALOGUE SAMPLE**

EDNA

(Having difficulty with an exercise machine) Oh dear. Do you think I'm doing it right?

NORMAN

Of course you are.

EDNA

It doesn't seem right.

NORMAN

What's the difference? You're getting exercise. That's all that really matters.

(SHE stops)

EDNA

But if I'm doing it wrong I could hurt myself. I wish we had the instruction booklet.

NORMAN

They don't always have instruction booklets at garage sales.

EDNA

Maybe we can write to the company. Do you know what this thing is called?

NORMAN

I think it's the Thighmaster.

EDNA

No, it's not the Thighmaster. There's nothing for thighs here.

NORMAN

Maybe it's the super abs burner.

EDNA

I don't think this has to do with abs.

NORMAN

What the hell are abs anyway?

EDNA

I don't know but this doesn't look like a burner. It looks more like a rower.

NORMAN

Maybe it's called the super abs rower.

EDNA

Maybe you can ask the people that you bought it from.

NORMAN

I think I bought it at that brown colonial where the dog didn't stop barking.

EDNA

No, that's where you bought the stationary bike with no bike seat.

NORMAN

I thought I bought the stationary bike with no bike seat at the white split level.

EDNA

You bought the stationary bike with no bike seat where the dog didn't stop barking. Remember I asked you why you bought a stationary bike with no bike seat and you said that the dog was making you crazy and you couldn't think straight?

NORMAN

Oh right. So where did I buy this gizmo?

EDNA

That's a mystery for the ages. Help me up. I have to dust. Our new neighbor is coming over.

NORMAN

(As HE helps her) Who is that?

EDNA

A Mrs. something or other. Her husband died and she just moved in. She's renting the Golden's house.

(THEY struggle together and SHE finally rises)

NORMAN

How old was the husband?

Old.

EDNA

Older than me?

NORMAN

Much older than you I'm sure.

EDNA

I don't like hearing about younger men who die. And I especially don't like hearing about men my age who die.

NORMAN

I'm sure he was in his eighties - or maybe even his nineties. (Pointing to the shopping bag) What did you buy this time?

EDNA

Why do you always accuse me of buying? I'm not always buying.

NORMAN

You go to the flea market. You come home with a filled shopping bag. It doesn't take Sherlock Holmes to figure out that you bought something.

EDNA

I didn't buy anything Dr. Watson. I was going to buy one of those wooden bird feeders that looks like a house but the guy wanted four bucks. It wasn't worth more than two.

NORMAN

Why would you buy a bird feeder? You hate birds.

EDNA

For two bucks I could keep it in the closet.

NORMAN

For what?

EDNA

What's the difference for what? I didn't buy it. Get on with your life.

NORMAN

(Frustrated) So what's in the shopping bag?

EDNA

NORMAN

Alright. Now you're asking an intelligent question. (HE carries the shopping bag to the sofa, and sits, placing the bag on the sofa. EDNA sits next to him) You remember Harry Conneghy?

EDNA

The butcher?

NORMAN

The butcher? The butcher was Harry Krause.

EDNA

No. You're thinking of Herb Krauthammer the dentist.

NORMAN

Dentist? I said butcher. I didn't say dentist. Did I say dentist?

EDNA

No you said butcher. Now what about the butcher?

NORMAN

Butcher? Who's talking about the butcher?

EDNA

You were just talking about the butcher weren't you? I said dentist, you said butcher! (THEY stare at each other for a moment. The phone rings and SHE looks to the heavens) Every interruption is a blessing from above. (SHE answers the phone) Hello. (Pause as SHE listens) Just a minute. (Handing the phone to NORMAN) It's for you.

NORMAN

Who is it?

EDNA

How should I know?

NORMAN

Don't you ask?

EDNA

Did you see me ask?

NORMAN

A person's supposed to ask. Give me the phone. (SHE hands the phone to him and HE answers gruffly, annoyed at the interruption) Hello. (Pause as HE listens. His demeanor immediately changes and HE smiles) Oh yes sir. Right. Yes sir. I can be there Monday morning at ten. Wonderful. Yes sir. Thank you. (HE hangs up)

EDNA

So who was that?

NORMAN

That was Mister Albano.

EDNA

Who's Mister Albano?

NORMAN

He's the human resources manager at Continental Egg Crates.

EDNA

Human resources?

NORMAN

You know - the employment manager.

EDNA

Why is an employment manager calling you? (Realizing) Oh no. Have you been sending out resumes again?

NORMAN

A man doesn't have to sit home waiting to die. A man can go out and get a job.

EDNA

In an egg crate factory? What do you know about egg crates?

NORMAN

What's to know? They come in four sizes, small, medium, large and extra large.

EDNA

What about jumbo?

NORMAN

(Uncertain) Jumbo is extra large.

EDNA

Jumbo is jumbo.

NORMAN

What's the difference? Jumbo, extra large, brown, white. An egg is an egg.

EDNA

So you're going for a job interview Monday?

NORMAN

That's right. And nothing's going to stop me.

EDNA

How old did you say you were this time?

NORMAN

Fifty-two.

EDNA

Fifty-two? You're seventy-two. As soon as they see you they'll know you lied.

NORMAN

Then I'll sue them for age discrimination. I'll get the AARP to help me.

EDNA

(Defeated) Do what you want. So what's with the shopping bag?

NORMAN

OH MY GOD. THE SHOPPING BAG! I forgot all about it. I'll have to cancel Mister Albumin.

EDNA

Albano.

NORMAN

I thought it was Albumin.

EDNA

Albumin is the egg white. See you know nothing about eggs.

NORMAN

It's not an egg company. It's an egg crate company. You don't have to know about clothes to manufacture suitcases.

EDNA

What the hell are you talking about?

NORMAN

I don't know. You're making me crazy.

EDNA

I'm making you crazy? And what about the shopping bag?

NORMAN

(Realizing) OH MY GOD. THE SHOPPING BAG!

EDNA

(Screaming) WHAT ABOUT IT?

NORMAN

(Leaning forward towards her) Alright, remember Herb Conneghy?

EDNA

Here we go again. (Leaning forward towards him) You mean Harry?

(THEY stare at each other for a beat and then both slump back exhausted)