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Dramatic Publishing

A Change of Pace

by
Edward Pomerantz

From...

35 in 10

Thirty-Five Ten-Minute Plays

Compiled and Edited

KENT R. BROWN



Dramatic Publishing

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A CHANGE OF PACE

By
Edward Pomerantz

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A Change of Pace first appeared in *Ms* magazine in 1974 and had its first production at the Déjà vu Playhouse in Hollywood, Calif., in 1985. It was directed by Raymond Cole, and featured Shannon Sullivan and David Hunt Stafford. Subsequent readings of the play have been performed at Food for Thought, the dramatic reading series at the National Arts Club in New York City, featuring Daniel McDonald and four different actresses—Judith Light, Marlo Thomas, Barbara Feldon and Betty Buckley.

CHARACTERS

JERRY:

An attractive couple in their 40s.

MARGO:

SETTING: A bedroom.

TIME: The present.

A CHANGE OF PACE

AT THE CURTAIN: *JERRY and MARGO are lying in bed in each other's arms. After a while:*

JERRY. Margo?

MARGO (*sleepily*). Mmmmmm?

JERRY. You still up?

MARGO (*muttering*). What is it?

JERRY. Nothing...I was just lying here thinking... (*Pause.*) Have you ever cheated on me? (*MARGO doesn't answer. We listen to her breathing.*) I mean... what right have I to assume you haven't? What right have I to be so sure of you? Especially now... Back to school after all these years...your whole life centered around the kids...around the house...around me. You must be coming into contact with all kinds of new people...all kinds of opportunities. (*Pause.*) ...Are you?

MARGO (*in her sleep*). Am I what?

JERRY. Meeting new people... Having an affair.

MARGO (*turning over, making herself comfortable*). I'll tell you in the morning.

(*She goes to sleep. JERRY looks at her, then to himself.*)

JERRY. Some English professor who's told you you have a talent for writing...a profound understanding of the human heart. Some kid...with a tattoo and an earring in his nipple—who punctuates your every word, your every breath with wow...and cool...and like that's really deep, man. (*A sigh.*) Well, it was inevitable, I guess.