

TYPICAL DAY IN THE HOME OF A MODERN WORTHY MATRON.  
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ONE ACT PLAY.

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Scene. Living room in the home of the Worthy Matron.

Time. 7 A.M. to L.A.M. Chapter Day.

( Any recent year in the life of a Chapter.)

CHARACTERS. ( In Order They Appear.)

Gus Anderson.	Worthy Matron's husband.	.....	Mr. Cyprus L. Matthews.
Martha Anderson	Worthy Matron	.....	Mrs. Edna E. Campbell.
John Snow	Plumber.	.....	Mr. Luther Van Duskirk
Committee Chairman		.....	Mrs. <del>Lillian Hooberry</del> <i>Jane Murphy</i>
Committee Member		.....	<del>Miss Martin Pats.</del> <i>Sallie Mitchell</i>
Helen Duesenberg	( Worthy Matron's Niece)	.....	Mrs. Irene Kretschmer
Pete Duesenberg	( Niece's husband )	.....	Mr. Clarence Hooberry.
Joe Fraser	Worthy Patron	.....	Mr. Earl Hoffman
Betty Fraser	Worthy Patron's wife.	.....	Mrs. Kittie A. Jones.
Invisible voice		.....	Mr. L.F. Reynolds.



\*\*\*\*\* CURTAIN. \*\*\*\*\*

( No one on stage.)

Phone rings. Husband enters, answers phone, takes message. Writes it down. Returns to bed-room for shoes and socks. Sits to put them on, discovers hole-- gets sewing basket out returns to chair and begins to darn sock. PHONE RINGS. He answers. ( the party is sore

because Worthy Matron isn't up.) He returns to chair to put on socks and shoes, gets socks on and one shoe PHONE RINGS. He hobbles to phone with the shoe, puts it on while talking.

Party complains she can't hear him and he pretends he can't understand why, but talks louder. HUSBAND GOES TO FRONT DOOR and brings in the morning paper and a quart of milk.

Sets milk on desk and sits to read the paper. PHONE RINGS. ( report of a death). Looks at watch-- Exclaims that he has only 45 minutes to get his breakfast, eat, wash two sets of dishes and get to work. Goes to kitchen, puts on apron and begins washing dishes noisily.

PHONE RINGS. He enters, answers, begins usual linge all in one breath but soon becomes apologetic because he learns that the call is not for his wife but rather a business call for himself. Returns to kitchen to finish dishes.

PHONE RINGS. He enters with a cup of coffee and plate of doughnuts. <sup>also</sup> puts and talks at the same time. Drops crumbs on the floor. Looks at watch, dashes to bedroom for hat, coat and tie, hurriedly puts them on. ( forgetting to remove his apron until he is almost out of the room front door. As he starts to leave he calls Good-bye to his wife and admonishes her to take it easy and rest all morning. she replies from the bedroom for him not to be funny and enumerates the many things that she has to do to-day and he leaves ( disgusted) while she is still talking.

PHONE RINGS. Worthy Matron enters. ( wrong number) She notices crumbs, gets broom and dust pan and cleans them up. Comments. She consults messages, looks at watch, decides to wait them later. Goes to sofa. Sits down, picks up paper and begins reading but gets too sleepy, reclines and dozes off to sleep.

PHONE RINGS. Answers and says " Oh, yes, 28 I've been up a long time, I found your message but have been so busy etc. DOOR BELL RINGS. She asks party on the phone to excuse her while she answers the door bell and goes to door. It is the plumber with his tools to open the sink drain pipe. She directs him to the kitchen and returns to the phone, apologetic about keeping her waiting. The plumber makes so much noise that she can't hear so she has



to hang up. She comments that she has to get dressed and then have some breakfast-- she goes to bedroom and the plumber's noise continues.

PHONE RINGS. She doesn't hear it. He re-enters (dressed) and begins to tidy room.

DOOR BELL RINGS. It is a telegram from her niece, Helen, saying that she and her husband will arrive the next day. She sighs, comments that she's glad that they are not coming to-day. etc.

Plumber enters. He tells her what a serious condition the sink is in etc. He leaves. She comments about the expense of it etc. and then remembers her breakfast but decides she'd better clean up the room a bit instead. Mumbles about the company.

PHONE RINGS. (Philanthropic ~~Committee~~ Chairman) They talk about a needy member who needs their help. She hangs up and puts in two calls (call backs). The audience need not know what the calls are about, just the usual one end of line conversation. She decides to go to kitchen for something to eat but

DOOR BELL RINGS. Answers. It is a delivery boy with a huge sorsage-- comments. Looks at watch and exclaims that she just has ten minutes to get to the hair dressers and goes for coat, hat and bulging hand bag. Starts towards the door when door bell rings Answers

Finds that it is two members who have come for a committee meeting which she had forgotten.

Apologizes that she must leave ----- and exits.

The committee girls comment about the looks of her house, but admit that she really is so sweet. They wonder why the rest of the committee don't get there. One tells the other a bit of news, perhaps about the coming or already arrived new baby of one of the members. Comments how well the officers did their work at the last meeting. About some recent movie or some story in a current magazine.

PHONE RINGS. They answer and take the message. It is a mother of an officer who is ill and can't be at Chapter that evening. They comment about that. Then mention about wishing the rest of the committee would come so they could get their meeting over with and go home to rehearse, but decide since there is a piano there who not practice it now. They go to piano. The accompanist begins the prelude but the PHONE RINGS. They answer. It is the Worthy Matron's husband. (She sings). As soon as she finishes the Worthy Matron enters and

says; "Fine, I just came up in time to hear the last of your song. I wish you would sing it again, but they insist that they really must go be running along. Worthy Matron inquires of the

girls, "Where are the rest of the committee? They answer that they didn't come, etc. The Worthy Matron asks them that they decided to do, what plans they made and they tell her that



they haven't decided anything Etc. She apologizes for having forgotten the meeting and says they'll have to have another one some day next week, etc. The girls tell the Worthy Matron about the two phone calls while she was away ( one from the mother of one of the officers who can't be present at Chapter that evening) ( the other call from her husband). The committee wait.

Worthy Matron calls her husband. He asks her if she wishes to go out for dinner and she says " No " that she hasn't time because she has to find a substitute for one of the officers for to-night. Says they'll have sardines, potato chips and for him to stop and get some ice cream, pie or something. Worthy Matron begins phoning for the substitute and has to put in several calls before she finds some one who can fill the vacant station that night. She's interrupted by door bell. It is the Post boy to collect for the paper. Worthy Matron gets out overstuffed bag to get money, comments. Pays boy.

PHONE RINGS. It is from one of the early morning calls whom she had not called back. It is a committee chairman with a tale of woe. The Worthy Matron tells her to just announce so and so and so at the meeting that night.

HUSBAND ENTERS. With ice cream etc.. He says he has tried to get her all day. She replies. He asks her if dinner is ready " No " etc. Husband goes to kitchen to prepare dinner and puts on apron. He drops a dish that breaks and Worthy Matron jumps out of her chair. The Worthy Matron is busy in the living room preparing her announcements for the evening's meeting.

PHONE RINGS. Some member wants to know if this is Chapter night and what is the program is-- " Yes this is Chapter night. We meet every first and third Friday. Been doing that for over 20 years. Hangs up and complains how dumb some folks are, etc. HUSBAND ENTERS. In apron and announces that dinner is served in the dining kitchen ( butler fashion) They start to the kitchen but the door bell rings. It is the relatives who made better time than they had expected and arrived ahead of him. schedule. Excitement a plenty !! Apologizes about their dinner of The relatives have had their dinner and they tell the Worthy Matron and husband to go on and eat.

Worthy Matron cannot conceal her relief. The Worthy Matron and husband retire to the kitchen. Relatives talk to each other about the disorder of the room.

PHONE RINGS. Worthy Matron rushes in ( showing her food) Answers phone. A sick member has been rushed to a hospital. Worthy Matron complains to relatives that they never got to eat a



a meal without interruptions etc. Worthy Matron goes back to kitchen to finish her dinner  
PHONE RINGS AGAIN. Niece calls that she will answer it for her. Niece tells party that she  
eating her dinner and could she have her call her back. Niece goes to kitchen door and gives  
the message to Worthy Matron. She answers her from the kitchen. Niece returns to living room  
and comments about the looks of the litchen, etc. Worthy Matron enters and apologizes about the  
disorder of her house and the Relatives insist that it looks all right..

Worthy Matron looks at her watch and exclaims that she must rush to get ready for Chapter.  
but PHONE RINGS ( about something pleasant)

Husband is heard rattling the dishes in the kitchen after the Worthy Matron has left the  
kitchen. Worthy Matron retires to the bed room. More chat between the relatives. Husband enters  
sits down and begins talking but company insists that he go on to Chapter with his wife. He  
hesitates but they insist and he starts to bed room but PHONE RINGS AND HE RETURNS TO ANSWER IT.  
It is the Worthy Patron's wife saying that they would be a little late because of something  
about missing buttons from his tuxedo vest. He couldn't understand exactly what it was that she  
was talking about. He comments such to the relatives and goes to the bed room to get ready.

Relatives converse. PHONE RINGS. ( wrong number) Niece answers and says " The Andersons  
Home. " No, its the home of the Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star or something like  
that " etc. " Oh, no, I'm sure there is no one here by that name." etc.

DOOR BELL RINGS. Worthy Patron enters. Introduces self. Asks if the folks are ready. Com-  
plains because he's been so busy all day, rushed to get here, and the Worthy Matron who hasn't he  
had anything to do all day isn't ready. etc. Company notice safety pins in vest and smile and  
snicker to themselves. RELATIVES ask Worthy Patron to sit but he prefers to stand. Worthy  
Matron enters and greets Worthy Patron, apologizes for being late, starts to introduce relatives  
but is informed that they have introduced themselves. Worthy Matron notices the safety pins in  
the vest and goes into hysteria. Husband enters ( ready to go) and joins in the fun. The  
three leave after again apologizing about leaving the relatives alone. As soon as they have gone  
the PHONE RINGS. The niece answers and says " No, she isn't. She's gone to Chapter " etc .

RELATIVES read, play radio, talk, go to the kitchen for something to eat, sit at the desk  
and write a few post cards to folks back home. Anything to pass the time . Finally the husband  
who has been reading the paper becomes drowsy and later the niece likewise flops in a chair and



doses. PHONE RINGS They answer ( short conversation) Just " No, she isn't, she's gone to Chapter. Yes, I'll tell her. They look at their watches but return to chairs and in walks the four from Chapter. They introduce the Worthy Patron's wife. All sit. Visit a bit. Worthy Patron and wife leave and Worthy Matron starts to show relatives to their room but PHONE RINGS SO THE HUSBAND SHOWS THEM TO THEIR ROOM. THE party on the phone is crabbing about the evening being too long etc. Husband enters and inquires about the call. Worthy Matron tells him. Husband says " Lets go to bed" but the Worthy Matron tells him to go on that she has things to do yet etc. Husband goes to bed room. PHONE RINGS ( a member praises the meeting.)

Worthy Matron sits in chair with note book and pencil and begins to write, mumbling as she does so. Soon she merely sits and meditates as in a daze.

An invisible voice sings " The End of a Perfect Day " Song finished. Husband calls from bed room for her to come to bed. Worthy Matron rouses herself out of daze and arises to go to bed room, commenting in her own natural way.