

BARRY

You seem confused.

KAREN

My God, is this how you ask someone to marry you in Iowa?

BARRY

Excuse me, I thought you were an independent, sexually liberated woman.

KAREN

I am! But I've gotten speeding tickets with more romance!!

BARRY

Do you expect me to get down on one knee?

KAREN

Don't bother! Because I have no intention of saying yes!

BARRY

That's fine! I was only practicing anyway!

KAREN

Well, you certainly need it!

BARRY

I'm going to buy you a ticket back to Chicago myself!!

KAREN

Good!

BARRY

Good!!

KAREN

Fine!

BARRY

Fine!!!

BETTY LOU

(Entering suddenly)

Oh, good, you're fighting, I'll come back later.

(She starts to leave)

BARRY

What is it, Betty Lou?

BETTY LOU

Nothing much. There are some bills to pay, I wanted to remind you about your appointment with the Mayor, and what else? Oh, yes, Life Magazine is waiting outside to do a story on the Cougars.

(Heading out)

I'm going to take my lunch break now.

BARRY

Wait a minute.

(BETTY LOU stops)

What was that last thing?

BETTY LOU

I'm going to take my lunch break....?

BARRY

Before that. Something about Life Magazine.

BETTY LOU

Oh, that. Yes, well, see what happened was, it's almost kind of funny in a way, but this man came in, a very nice man, he said are we anywhere near Cedar Rapids, I said we're two hours away, he said is there a place I can stay, I said there's a place right down the street, he said is there anything to do in this town, I said do you like baseball, he said baseball, I love it, I said, listen to the Cougars he said, Cougars, are they a baseball team, I said yes, the best darn professional baseball team in the country, he said wow, the Cougars, I said what do you do, he said I work for Life Magazine, I said wow, Life Magazine, he said it's just a job, I said what a nice man, and now he's standing outside the door.

(She breaks down in tears)

BARRY

What!?

BETTY LOU

He wants to do a story on the Cougars!

BARRY

But there are no Cougars!!!

BETTY LOU

I know!!!

KAREN

All right, let's not panic. Panic is our worst enemy.

BARRY

No, right now, Life Magazine is our worst enemy. What are we supposed to do?

KAREN

I don't know!

BARRY

Well, think! This was your bright idea to begin with.

KAREN

MY idea? Do you remember illegal, immoral, improper....

BARRY

Oh, fine. Throw that up in my face. Sometimes I wonder why I asked you to marry me.

KAREN

You DIDN'T ask me to marry you!

BETTY LOU

Maybe we could tell them they all died in an earthquake.

KAREN

What?

BETTY LOU

A big earthquake.

KAREN

Betty Lou, don't take this personally, but that is the single dumbest idea in the history of mankind.

BETTY LOU

How can I not take that personally?

(LAWRENCE, MARTY and MARY enter the room. They stand there looking at BARRY, sorrowful expressions on their faces)

BARRY

What's this?

LAWRENCE

Betty Lou told us about the man from Life Magazine.

MARY

What are we going to do, Barry?

MARTY

Are we going to jail?

BARRY

No one is going to jail.