

An excerpt from...

"OPEN AND SHUT MARRIAGE"  
by Bruce Kane

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"OPEN AND SHUT MARRIAGE"  
by Bruce Kane

*(LIGHTS UP ON MARTHA LARRY FACING THE AUDIENCE. SHE'S PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON HER MAKE-UP. HE IS STRAIGHTENING HIS TIE.)*

MARTHA: Who is it, tonight?

LARRY: Susan. A salesgirl I met while picking out your birthday present.

MARTHA: And a lovely gift it was, too.

LARRY: Susan said you'd like it. She was the one who really selected it. You know how I am with those things.

MARTHA: Thank her for me. She has excellent taste in jewelry... and men.

LARRY: I'll tell her what you said... She'll be pleased to hear it.

MARTHA: Is Susan pretty?

LARRY: Lovely... Almost as lovely as you.

MARTHA: You think Peter will like the way I look?

LARRY: He'll love you.

MARTHA: I hope so. He is such a sexy man.

*(She picks up her purse and starts to exit)*

LARRY: Before you go.

MARTHA: Can it wait, Larry. I am running a little late.

LARRY: This will only take a second.

MARTHA: My dearest always comes first. Besides, it's good to keep a man waiting. Gets his juices perking.

LARRY: I have a terrible confession to make, Martha.

MARTHA: What is it, dear? What's wrong?

LARRY: Remember our conversation last year?

MARTHA: Which one?

LARRY: The one we had after Tony and Judy broke up when she found out about his affair.

MARTHA: Yes... That was where we agreed that statistically, we'd be faced with the same problem, sooner or later.

LARRY: And we decided that our marriage was much too important for it to flounder on the rocks of infidelity.

MARTHA: *(impatiently)* Poetically said dear. But can you get to the point?

LARRY: It's about the agreement we reached to set aside every Tuesday night for each of us to see whoever we wanted openly and above board.

MARTHA: So long as it didn't interfere with the marriage.

LARRY: It's about those Tuesday nights.

MARTHA: They are working out wonderfully, too. Aren't they?

LARRY: Yes... Well... That's what I want to talk to you about.

MARTHA: It sounds serious.

LARRY: It is. Quite serious.

MARTHA: Oh dear.

LARRY: It's not what you're thinking.

MARTHA: Then you haven't gotten involved.

LARRY: No.

MARTHA: Good.

LARRY: It's something else.

MARTHA: Perhaps we can talk about this when I...

LARRY: It's about last Tuesday night.

MARTHA: Last Tuesday... You were with someone named Joan, or Joanne, or something like that.

LARRY: That's not quite true.

MARTHA: (*almost at the door*) Whatever her name. As long as you enjoyed yourself.

LARRY: I wasn't with a woman.

MARTHA: Ohmygod!!!!!!

LARRY: It's not that Martha.

MARTHA: Then what the hell is it?

LARRY: I was at the movies.

MARTHA: The movies???

LARRY: A double bill. "Dirty Harry" and "Magnum Force"... Clint Eastwood.

MARTHA: Clint Eastwood?

LARRY: It was the same the week before. "Ghostbusters" and "Groundhog Day." They both had Bill Murray in them. He's the fellow who used to be on "Saturday Night..."

MARTHA: I know who Bill Murray is.. If you couldn't find a date, why didn't you say so? It's no big deal. One or two Tuesday nights.

LARRY: It's not that I couldn't find a date. I haven't been looking for one. I've never looked for one. I've been going to the movies every Tuesday night.

MARTHA: Every Tuesday night for the last six months?

LARRY: It's been awful. You don't realize how much junk Hollywood turns out until...

MARTHA: You louse.

LARRY: I didn't know how to tell you.

MARTHA: What about your secretary?

LARRY: I never touched her.

MARTHA: Ohmygod. And here I've been making all those little innuendos to her over the phone. What must she think of me?

LARRY: She just thinks you're a little brassy.

MARTHA: And I suppose while Kenny and I were at the Marriott you and whatshername were never...

LARRY: Never.

MARTHA: What is wrong with you?

LARRY: I don't know.

MARTHA: We had an agreement.

LARRY: Can you ever forgive me?

MARTHA: All this time I thought you were getting it on with some waitress or the wife of a friend and you were at the movies.

LARRY: I'm sorry.

MARTHA: This is the lowest thing I have ever heard of.

(The play continues...)

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