

"BEDFELLOWS"
by Bruce Kane

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(The lights come up on three empty stools)

(Betty, a Valley housewife enters and addresses the audience.)

BETTY: Hi. My name is Betty Corbin. I'm thirty eight years old. I'm trying to lose eight pounds.

(She sits on an end stool.)

(A conservatively dressed man enters. He introduces himself to the audience)

DAVE: I'm Dave Corbin. I'm thirty nine. Today my top spin forehand was devastating... I won six-three... Six-four.

(He sits on the center stool.)

(A sexy young woman enters and greets the audience)

SHELLEY: My name is Michelle. But everyone calls me Shelley. I'll be twenty eight next month. I still wear a size six.
(She sits on the third stool.)

BETTY: I have a lovely home in the Valley. Five bedrooms, three and a half baths.

DAVE: My office is in Century City.

SHELLEY: I own a condo in what the real estate ladies like to refer to as Beverly Hills adjacent.

BETTY: I'm a housewife.

DAVE: I'm an attorney.

SHELLEY: I run my own interior design firm.

BETTY: I have two kids and a dog named Millie. She was given to us by my Uncle Ned. He's a Republican. Uncle Ned that is. Millie is a cocker spaniel.

SHELLEY: I've never been married.

DAVE: I drive an 89 BMW. It's my pride and joy.

BETTY: I've been married to the same man for fifteen years.

SHELLEY: I've been sleeping with the same man for eight months.

DAVE : I play tennis twice a month with Barbra Streisand's lawyer.

BETTY: My husband is a wonderful man. He takes very good care of me and the kids.

DAVE: They deserve it.

SHELLEY: My lover and I see each other whenever we can.

DAVE: Neither of us likes to be crowded.

BETTY: It's not the same as it was when Dave and I first got married. Then, he'd call me up in the middle of the day... right out of the blue... and tell me to wait for him in bed. I loved sex in the afternoon.

DAVE: I was in law school then. There was time.

BETTY: He doesn't come home in the afternoon anymore.

DAVE: Hell, it's forty five minutes from the office to the house alone. And that's if there's no traffic on the freeway.

SHELLEY: I sometimes think the only attraction I hold for Dave is the proximity of my apartment to his office. He can be in and out before anyone at the firm misses him.

DAVE: It goes much deeper than that. I love being with Shelley. She's bright... beautiful... independent... Never demanding... Last week I took her to Las Vegas with me for a lawyer's convention. Just the two of us for the whole week. It was great. We had a wonderful time.

SHELLEY: He did take me to Las Vegas for a week. He said we'd have all kinds of time to be alone. We were alone alright. He didn't want any of his pals to see us together.

BETTY: Dave works very hard. And we try to get away when we can. He really wanted me to go with him to Las Vegas last week. He had this lawyer's convention. He said we could turn the whole thing into a second honeymoon and it would all be tax deductible. I was looking forward to it... Then the kids got the flu and Dave had to go by himself.

DAVE: It would have been a second honeymoon. But just because Betty couldn't make it, I saw no reason why I should go alone.

SHELLEY: I hope it doesn't sound like I'm complaining. Dave and I have a very good relationship. We like each other. The sex is good and I'm not limited to just one man.

DAVE: I didn't know that... About not being limited.

BETTY: Don't think I'm not grateful for my life. It's hectic and we don't get as much time away from the kids as we'd like, but it's a good life.

SHELLEY: I have my independence.

BETTY: I have security.

SHELLEY: I have a great job.

BETTY: I have a wonderful home.

SHELLEY: I drive a red convertible.

BETTY: We paid off the station wagon last month.

SHELLEY: My apartment has a built in sauna.

BETTY: We've got our own pool.

SHELLEY: Dave says I'm the fulfillment of every erotic fantasy he's every had and he dresses me in garters, black seamed stockings and stiletto heels to prove it.

DAVE : A guy's gotta have some fantasy fulfillment.

SHELLEY: I don't mind.... Really.

BETTY: Dave never fails to compliment me on my cooking. He says eating my lasagna is the closest thing to sex he's ever encountered.

DAVE: I'm not ashamed to admit it... I've got it all... A successful law practice... A beautiful home... Two terrific kids... A wife who never complains... And a girlfriend with legs like a Rockette... And an 89 BMW.

SHELLEY: Who would have ever believed it? Here I am at age twenty eight with everything I ever wanted... And I don't know where the hell I'm going.

BETTY ; I'm right where I belong... Why do I feel like I haven't been anywhere?

SHELLEY: The business, the bills, the clients, the suppliers, the phone... What does it all mean?

BETTY: The kids, the house, the car pool, the gardener, the PTA. My life isn't my own.

SHELLEY: I want a little security... Is that too much to ask?

BETTY: I want to be independent... Have a life of my own.

SHELLEY: I'm lonely.

BETTY I'm bored.

SHELLEY: I want a home.

BETTY: I want adventure.

SHELLEY: I want children.

BETTY: I want freedom.

SHELLEY: I want to be loved.

BETTY: I want to thrill to the touch of new hands on my body.

SHELLEY: I want to wake up with the same man every morning.

BETTY: I want to drive a red convertible.

SHELLEY: I want a Volvo.

BETTY: I want to be some man's wet dream come to life.

DAVE: I want a serve like Pete Sampras.

SHELLEY: (turns to Dave) I want to get married.

BETTY: (turns to Dave) I want a divorce.

(Betty and Shelley change places)

SHELLEY; My name is Shelley Corbin now.

BETTY; I thought about going back to my maiden name for a while... But Betty Selman doesn't exist anymore. She was somebody I knew a long time ago... In another life.

DAVE; Everyone seems to have adjusted to the new arrangement.

SHELLEY: I'm thirty years old now.

BETTY: I just experienced the big four oh.

DAVE: I'd rather not talk about it.

SHELLEY: Dave and I live in a small house in the Valley with his two kids. Dave is a very good husband. He works very hard to take care of us.

BETTY: I'm single... I live in a one bedroom apartment.

DAVE: I still practice law.

SHELLEY: I do some interior design work from time to time. Just to keep my hand in... I'm thinking of taking it up full time again... But, what with the kids and the house...

BETTY: I got a job... I'm a receptionist with a small insurance firm in Woodland Hills.

DAVE: I had to sell the BMW. Broke my heart.

BETTY: I bought a convertible. It's a Plymouth. It's old. An eighty something. It's in the shop now... I'm having it painted red.

SHELLEY: I drive car pool three days a week.

BETTY: I took a lover. We've been sleeping together for eight months now.

DAVE: I still play tennis with Barbra Streisand's lawyer twice a week.

SHELLEY: I'm trying to lose nine pounds.

BETTY: I miss my kids.

DAVE: The firm is growing... We're looking for office space in Santa Monica.

SHELLEY: I found these shoes Dave gave me before we were married. The ones right out of an S and M manual? One of the heels was broken... I didn't get it fixed.

BETTY: My lover just called.

SHELLEY: Look at the time... I'd better get home... The kids must be getting hungry.

BETTY: He's coming over.

SHELLEY: Dave just phoned.

BETTY: He asked me to meet him in bed.

SHELLEY: He said he'd be a little late.

BETTY: He doesn't have much time... He has to get home.

(She hurries off excitedly)

SHELLEY: He asked me to hold dinner for him.

(She kind of shrugs and walks off)

(Dave starts to exit then turns back)

DAVE: Did I mention I sold the BMW? I really miss that car.

(Dave exits)

(Lights down)

END OF PLAY