

FAMILY 2.0

by WALTER WYKES

CHARACTERS

WIFE

HUSBAND

SON

DAUGHTER

FIRST HUSBAND/DOG

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[A perfect-looking house—the kind you find in magazines. A perfect-looking WIFE puts the finishing touches on her perfect-looking living room. The front door opens and HUSBAND enters.]

HUSBAND

Hi, Honey! I'm home!

WIFE

Who are you? What are you doing in my house?!

HUSBAND

I'm your new husband. Where should I put my coat?

[He tries to kiss WIFE, but she backs away from him terrified.]

WIFE

Don't touch me! I'll scream! I'll call the police!

HUSBAND

Aren't you going to ask how my day was?

WIFE

[Attempting to pacify him.]

How ... how was your day?

HUSBAND

It was awful! Just like every other day! Same old boring job. Same old boring boss. Same old boring *life*. And then, on the way home, suddenly it hit to me—why come home to the same old boring wife and house and kids and dog when I could try something new?

WIFE

But you can't just—

HUSBAND

I've always admired your home. It's very well kept.

WIFE

Thank you, but—

HUSBAND

I pass it every day on my way to work, so I thought today I'd give it a try. It has to be more exciting than the one I've been coming home to for the past fifteen years.

WIFE

But ... I already have a husband.

HUSBAND

He can have my life. Where does he work?

WIFE

He's an executive. At a technology company.

HUSBAND

Perfect! I love technology! All those little gadgets and stuff! It'll be great!

WIFE

Look, I'm ... I'm sorry your life is so boring. My life is boring too. But you can't just walk in here and expect us to—

HUSBAND

Oh! I almost forgot! I brought you flowers!

[He produces a bouquet of flowers from his coat.]

WIFE

You brought me flowers?

HUSBAND

They're orchids—a symbol of rare beauty and eternal love—my love for you.

WIFE

My ... my husband hasn't brought me flowers in almost fifteen years.

HUSBAND

I wrote you a poem too.

WIFE

A poem?

HUSBAND

Would you like me to recite it?

WIFE

Well ... if you went to the trouble of writing it ... I ... I wouldn't want it to go to waste.

HUSBAND

You take my breath away.
Like the sunset or a summer day.
When I gaze at the moon
Or the ocean blue
They pale beside the sight of you.
You take my breath away.

WIFE

That's beautiful. You ... you really wrote that?

HUSBAND

For you.

[Pause. She considers this.]

WIFE

Do you pee in the shower?

HUSBAND

Never.

WIFE

Hog the sheets?

HUSBAND

Nope.

WIFE

Snore?

HUSBAND

I don't think so.

WIFE

Any history of baldness in your family?

HUSBAND

On the contrary. We're very hairy.

WIFE

Would you do your own laundry or wait for me to do it.

HUSBAND

Do it myself.

WIFE

Fix the toilet or call a plumber?

HUSBAND

Fix it.

WIFE

Shingle the roof or buy a new house?

HUSBAND

New house.

WIFE

Anniversary in Maui or Vegas?

HUSBAND

Maui.

WIFE

Watch football or do me in the kitchen?

HUSBAND

Do you really have to ask?

WIFE

Will you constantly try to pork me in the rear?

HUSBAND

Only if you want me to.

WIFE

Tell me about your first wife.

HUSBAND

She was a nag. A nag with no boobs. She had boobs until the baby was born, but he sucked them right off. I'm a boob man, so it was completely unworkable.

WIFE

You left because she lost her boobs?

HUSBAND

There were other things. But I have to be honest—it was mainly the boobs.

WIFE

What if I lose my boobs? Will you leave me too?

HUSBAND

It looks like you've got plenty to spare!

[They make out.]

Can we have sex now?

WIFE

Easy, Tiger. You'll have to win the kids over first. Children!

[Enter SON and DAUGHTER.]

Children, meet your new father.

HUSBAND

Hi, kids.

SON

You're not my father! You're a fake! An imposter!

HUSBAND

Do you like baseball?

SON

Sure.

HUSBAND

I'll take you to the Big Game.

SON

The Big Game?! No way!

[He embraces HUSBAND.]

I love you, Dad!

DAUGHTER

What about me? I hate baseball.

HUSBAND
Do you like shopping?

DAUGHTER
Duh.

HUSBAND
Here—knock yourself out.
[He hands her a hundred dollar bill.]

DAUGHTER
A hundred dollar bill?! You're the greatest!
[She kisses HUSBAND on the cheek.]

WIFE
Go play in your room, kids. Your father and I need some time alone.

DAUGHTER
Sure thing, Mom.

SON
See ya later, Dad.
[Exit kids.]

WIFE
[Seductively.]
Now where were we?
[They make out. Enter FIRST HUSBAND.]

FIRST HUSBAND
Hi, Honey! I'm ... what's going on here?! What are you doing to my wife?!

HUSBAND
I'm trying to pork her in the rear.

FIRST HUSBAND
I'm calling the police!

WIFE
Wait! Give me your key.

FIRST HUSBAND
What?

WIFE
Your key. Hand it over.

FIRST HUSBAND
I don't understand.

WIFE
He's replacing you.

FIRST HUSBAND
Replacing me?

WIFE
That's right. He's in—you're out.

FIRST HUSBAND
But why?!

WIFE
He brought me flowers! When's the last time you brought me flowers?!

FIRST HUSBAND
I—

WIFE
Exactly. Now stop stuttering and hand over the key.

FIRST HUSBAND
But ... what about the kids?! You can't take the kids away from me! Kids!
[Enter SON and DAUGHTER.]
You don't want me to go—do you kids?

SON
He's taking me to the Big Game.

FIRST HUSBAND
I'll take you!

SON
Too late. You had your chance.

FIRST HUSBAND
But—

DAUGHTER

Sorry. It's nothing personal.

WIFE

[Her hand outstretched.]

The key.

FIRST HUSBAND

But I don't want to go! Please, I'll ... I'll do anything! Just let me stay! I won't bother you! I'll stay out of the way! I'll ... I'll be another kid! Or the family dog!

SON

I've always wanted a dog!

DAUGHTER

Eww! He's gonna get hair everywhere!

SON

Please?! Can I keep him?! Can I?!

WIFE

I don't know. What do you think, Honey?

HUSBAND

He'd be your responsibility, Son. We're not going to feed him for you, or take him for walks, or clean up his poop—

SON

I'll take care of him! I promise!

[To FIRST HUSBAND/DOG.]

Come here, boy! Sit! Roll over! Play dead! Good boy!

FIRST HUSBAND/DOG

Woof! Woof!

DAUGHTER

Can I go shopping now?

WIFE

If your father will drive you.

DAUGHTER
Dad?

HUSBAND
Well ... your mother and I were sort of in the middle of something.

DAUGHTER
But I want to go now! There's a sale!

FIRST HUSBAND/DOG
Woof! Woof!

HUSBAND
Okay, just give us—

FIRST HUSBAND/DOG
Woof!

WIFE
I think the dog has to go.

HUSBAND
Son, take your dog outside.

SON
I can't. I have homework.
[Exit SON.]

DAUGHTER
Can I go shopping or not?

FIRST HUSBAND/DOG
Woof! Woof!

WIFE
Honey, could you take care of the dog?

HUSBAND
It's not my dog.

WIFE
You told him he could keep it.

Woof! FIRST HUSBAND/DOG

Do we have a leash? HUSBAND

Is anybody listening to me? DAUGHTER
[Enter SON with baseball and glove.]

Hey Dad, can we play ball? SON

I thought you had homework. HUSBAND

I just finished. SON

Hello? DAUGHTER

Woof! Woof! FIRST HUSBAND/DOG

[To SON.] HUSBAND
Here—take the dog outside.

I have to poop. SON
[Exit SON.]

[To HUSBAND] WIFE
While you're out, can you take the trash?

Woof! FIRST HUSBAND/DOG

Ahh ... sure. HUSBAND

DAUGHTER

I hate this family!

WIFE

And could you do something about your daughter?

FIRST HUSBAND/DOG

Woof!

HUSBAND

What do you want me to—

FIRST HUSBAND/DOG

Woof! Woof!

HUSBAND

[To FIRST HUSBAND/DOG]

Shut up, you stupid mutt!

FIRST HUSBAND/DOG

Grrr!

[FIRST HUSBAND/DOG bites HUSBAND'S pants and pulls him towards the door.]

WIFE

I think he really wants to go.

DAUGHTER

What about me?! Does anybody care what I want?!

[Enter SON.]

SON

The Big Game starts any minute! We have to go!

HUSBAND

*[To WIFE]*When ... when we get back it would be really nice to have some quality *alone time* if you know what I mean.

WIFE

It'll have to wait, Dear. You have responsibilities now.

HUSBAND

Responsibilities?! This isn't what I signed up for! You're just like my first wife!

WIFE

WHAT did you say?!!!

HUSBAND

I—

WIFE

Don't compare me to that flat-chested bitch!

HUSBAND

I didn't mean—

WIFE

Do you see these tits?! Do you ever want to touch these tits again?!

HUSBAND

Yes! Yes, I do! That's what I—

FIRST HUSBAND/DOG

Woof! Woof!

SON

We're gonna miss the game! We have to go NOW!

DAUGHTER

I asked first! It's not fair!

WIFE

If I ever hear you even THINK her name again—

DAUGHTER

You can't just ignore me!

SON

You promised!

WIFE

I swear to God—

FIRST HUSBAND/DOG

Woof!

[As the cacophony rises, everyone converges on HUSBAND who climbs onto the couch to escape them. They surround him like a pack of rabid wolves.]

WIFE	SON	DAUGHTER	DOG
Your balls will be	All I wanted to do	Am I invisible?	Woof! Woof!
so blue you'll be	was go to the Big	Am I not even	Woof! Woof!
begging me to	Game! But now	here? What do I	Woof! Woof!
fuck <i>you</i> in the	it's too late! I	have to do to get	Woof! Woof!
ass! Are you	already told all of	some attention in	Woof! Woof!
hearing me?! Are	my friends we	this house?! Do I	Woof! Woof!
we clear on this?!	were going, and	have to shoot	Woof! Woof!
It's gonna take a	they're all going	somebody? Do I	Woof! Woof!
LOT of ass-kissing	too, and now	have to blow	Woof! Woof!
to make up for this	they're going to	something up?	Woof! Woof!
little slip-up,	see that I'm not	Maybe I should	Woof! Woof!
Mister! Not only	really there and	get pregnant! I	Woof! Woof!
am I not <i>like</i> her,	they're going to	should find the	Woof! Woof!
but she doesn't	know what losers	first boy who	Woof! Woof!
exist! She's a	we are! I'll bet	wants to fuck me	Woof! Woof!
figment of your	you didn't even	and just pull up	Woof! Woof!
imagination!	buy tickets—did	my skirt! There	Woof! Woof!
She's not even a	you?! Liar! My	are plenty of boys	Woof! Woof!
figment! I am the	other Dad would	at school who'd	Woof! Woof!
first and <i>only</i>	have taken me! I	like to fuck me!	Woof! Woof!
woman you've	should have gone	Maybe they	Woof! Woof!
ever loved, buddy,	with him! I'm	already have!	Woof! Woof!
and you will	never going to	Maybe I just	Woof! Woof!
grovel at my feet if	believe another	haven't told you!	Woof! Woof!
you want any	word you say!	Or maybe I have	Woof! Woof!
pudding from my	You're a big fat	but you don't	Woof! Woof!
kitchen!	ugly liar!	fucking listen!	Woof! Woof!

HUSBAND

I NEED A NEW LIFE!!!

[Blackout.]

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