

# EPIPHANY

## By David MacGregor

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ISBN: 978-1-60003-877-8

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**PUBLISHED BY BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS**  
**1-888-473-8521**

**EPIPHANY***A Ten Minute Comedy Duet***By David MacGregor**

**SYNOPSIS:** As a long-married couple enjoy their morning cups of coffee, the man reveals to his wife that he had an epiphany recently. Specifically, he realized that there isn't a single thing in the world that he cares about anymore. Concerned that he's becoming a psychopath, he confides his fears to his wife. Does she still care about anything? Are they both psychopaths? Or is there some other explanation?

**CAST OF CHARACTERS***(1 female, 1 male)*

MAN (m) ..... Middle-aged or older. *(48 lines)*

WOMAN (f)..... Middle-aged or older. *(47 lines)*

**SETTING:** A room.

**TIME:** Present.

**PROPS**

- Two Coffee Cups
- Book
- Newspaper
- Two Chairs

**AT RISE:** *MAN and WOMAN sit at an angle to one another. They have cups of coffee next to them. He is reading a newspaper. She is reading a book. He lowers his newspaper and looks at her.*

**MAN:** I had an epiphany the other day.

**WOMAN:** That's nice.

*He raises his paper. He turns a page. She turns a page. He lowers the paper.*

**MAN:** I don't suppose you'd be interested in hearing what it was.

**WOMAN:** Did you want to talk about it?

**MAN:** No, that's okay.

*He raises his paper. He turns a page. She turns a page. He lowers the paper.*

**MAN:** I guess I wouldn't mind getting your opinion on it.

**WOMAN:** Your epiphany?

**MAN:** Right.

**WOMAN:** Okay.

**MAN:** What do you remember about 1979?

**WOMAN:** 1979? Not much.

**MAN:** Me neither. But I remember watching the Academy Awards that year and one of the nominees for Best Actor was Peter Sellers in *Being There*. One of the other nominees was Dustin Hoffman in *Kramer vs. Kramer*.

**WOMAN:** Didn't Dustin Hoffman win?

**MAN:** Right.

**WOMAN:** What about it?

**MAN:** I was outraged.

**WOMAN:** Really?

**MAN:** Yeah. Genuinely outraged. *Being There* was this beautiful little fable, a perfect jewel of a film. And *Kramer vs. Kramer* was just crap. Over the top, calculated, emotionally manipulative crap. I was angry about that for weeks.

**WOMAN:** I had no idea.

**MAN:** I would see people I knew and that was the first thing I would talk about. How unfair it was. How wrong it was.

**WOMAN:** And that was your epiphany?

**MAN:** Hmm? Oh no. No, my epiphany was about this year's Academy Awards.

**WOMAN:** I didn't know you watched it.

**MAN:** I didn't.

**WOMAN:** I don't understand.

**MAN:** I didn't watch it. And do you know why I didn't watch it?

**WOMAN:** Why?

**MAN:** Because I don't give a rat's butt.

**WOMAN:** I see.

**MAN:** I don't care who wins Best Picture. Best Actor. Best Set Design. None of it. I just don't care. It got me thinking.

**WOMAN:** About what?

**MAN:** Everything. I began to realize that I don't care about the Emmys either. Or the Grammys. Or the Tonys. And it doesn't stop there. I don't care about celebrities, about the Mideast, about the potholes on our street. I don't care about that stain on the carpet upstairs. I don't care about the latest fashions, video games, electric cars, rain forests, organic coffees, calories in beer, business scandals, government screw-ups, I just don't care. And that was my epiphany. When it comes right down to it, there isn't a single thing in the world that I care about.

*He raises his paper. She returns to her book. They both flip pages. She looks up.*

**WOMAN:** Do you care about me?

*He lowers his paper.*

**MAN:** What's that?

**WOMAN:** Do you care about me?

**MAN:** Well, let me put it this way. When we first started seeing one another, I longed for you. I did. I physically ached for you. When my phone rang, my heart would speed up, hoping it was you. I thought about you all day and then I dreamt about you at night. All I could think about was seeing you, touching you, being with you. If anything happened to you I felt sure I would kill myself because I knew I couldn't live in a world without you in it. Do you remember feeling that way about me?

**WOMAN:** Yes, I do.

**MAN:** Do you feel that way now?

**WOMAN:** Not remotely.

**MAN:** Right. And I don't really care that you feel that way.

**WOMAN:** Me neither. It's exhausting.

**MAN:** So what happened? Why don't we care like we used to?

**WOMAN:** I think it's all perfectly natural.

**MAN:** Not caring is natural?

**WOMAN:** Sure.

**MAN:** How so?

**WOMAN:** Well, look at it this way. How long did the average Neanderthal live?

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