

LAPSE

By Gail Phaneuf

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LAPSE
A Drama Duet
by Gail Phaneuf

SYNOPSIS: Honey has forgotten a serious “discussion”. She wants Matt to remind her what the discussion was about and he resists. Does she really want to know?

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 female, 1 male)

HONEY (f)..... 40’s-50’s; Matt’s wife.
(47 lines)

MATT (m) 40’s-50’s; Honey’s husband. *(48 lines)*

TIME: Present day.

SETTING: Honey and Matt’s kitchen.

SET: Kitchen table and chairs.

PROPS

- Cup of Coffee
- Newspaper
- Breakfast Bowl (or Plate)
- Silverware

COSTUMES

MATT – Wears slippers.

HONEY – Wears sneakers.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Matt is genuinely surprised that Honey can't remember the conversation they had in bed this night before. It should not be implied that Honey is actually losing her memory, but she has somehow blocked out the conversation and really cannot recall what they talked about. There is such a thing as the motivated forgetting theory. It suggests that people forget things because they do not want to remember them for some reason.

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AT RISE: *MATT is sitting at the kitchen table reading the newspaper while eating his breakfast and drinking coffee. HONEY enters extremely purposeful and then suddenly stops and is struck dumb, she looks around almost in a panic. MATT notices her and looks up from his newspaper. HONEY finally blurts out.*

HONEY: Why did I come in here?

MATT: I don't know.

Pause.

HONEY: It was important.

MATT: Well, you have your sneakers on. Maybe you were going for a run?

HONEY: Then why would I come in here?

MATT: I don't know- a drink of water maybe-

HONEY: What was it??...Why did I--why did I walk into this room just now?

MATT: Beats me.

HONEY: Think!

MATT: Why don't you try to calmly re-create what you were doing right before you came in here? That way you might remember why. What were you just doing?

HONEY: (*Getting worked up.*) That's not important. The important thing is what I came in here to do.

MATT: Which is what?

HONEY: I don't know – and please do not patronize me!

MATT: OK. (*Pause.*) Maybe you should write things down. That way you'll know what you're doing at all times.

HONEY: All right – I need you to help me. I need you to give me a little more energy. Get up. Come on. Help me focus. Walk around with me...or jog – yes that's it - jog with me! That way the energy will help me remember what I was doing.

MATT: What? You want me to what- jog around the table?

HONEY: Yes!

MATT: To help you remember why you came in the room? Honey, I can't help you remember something. You have to do that yourself.

HONEY: No – you can help. You can help me remember. If you stand up and...do some laps with me. Put a little effort into it.

MATT: Laps?

HONEY: Yes – laps! Come on!

MATT: I'm in my slippers-

MATT: My running around the table won't help you remember why you came in the room.

HONEY: How do you know?

MATT: I can't help you remember. Just like you can't help me remember why I came in the room.

HONEY: What do you mean why you came in the room? You already know why you came in the room – you're eating breakfast. I'm the one who doesn't know why I came in. Stop confusing the matter with hypothetical situations!

MATT: Maybe you came in to eat breakfast.

HONEY: I already ate breakfast.

MATT: Or, you may have come in to sit with me while I eat breakfast.

HONEY: What would that accomplish?

MATT: OK, I get the message. So, you meant everything you said last night?

HONEY: What?

MATT: I want to know if you meant what you said last night.

Long pause.

HONEY: *(Can't remember.)* Yes...

MATT: I think you were unreasonable.

Long pause.

HONEY: Which part?

MATT: The entire discussion was unreasonable. You got angry and started – accusing me of things that I did not do.

Long pause.

HONEY: Uh huh. Which things?

Pause.

MATT: You don't remember?

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