

YOU DON'T BRING ME FLOWERS

By Rod

This sketch is based on Peter's 3 denials of Christ [Matt 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:63-71; John 18:15-18,25-27] and his reinstatement later [John 21:15-19]. No attempt is made to assess whether the character, Peter, in this sketch needs to make full confession to his wife about his adultery before her forgiveness can be complete – or whether she should be expected to do so. This is why the ending is left 'hanging in the air'. The great thing is, of course, that Jesus forgives us unreservedly even though he knows all about our 'adultery'.

CAST

Peter Married to Jessica ['Jessie']

Jessica Married to Peter!

Sophie Casual acquaintance of Peter who he met on a business trip. They had a 'one night stand' affair. She is not seen on stage but is heard 'on the telephone'.

Jessica is on stage in the 'family home' preparing supper, clearing up, etc, waiting for her husband to return from having been away the night before on a business trip. Peter enters at side of stage carrying a bunch of flowers. Before 'entering his house' he pauses to make a call on his mobile `phone. Sound of telephone ringing.

Sophie Hello, Sophie speaking.

Peter [*Nervously*] Oh, hello Sophie – it's Peter.

Sophie [*Intimately*] Oh, hi Peter. I wondered when you'd call.

Peter It's about last night.

Sophie Mmm, great wasn't it? When can I see you again?

Peter Um, er....

Sophie How are you placed tomorrow? [*Teasing*] I have a window in the early evening.

Peter No, not tomorrow.

Sophie Saturday then?

Peter No, not tomorrow, not Saturday – not ever. Look, Sophie, I've made a mistake.

Sophie *[Sexily]* Well I certainly didn't notice you making any mistakes. Quite the reverse. *[Changing tone]* Look, Peter, what's happened?

Peter Nothing's happened. It's just... It's just that I'm married.

Sophie You're married?

Peter Yes.

Sophie You weren't wearing a wedding ring. I checked.

Peter I took it off.

Sophie And when I asked you directly you said you didn't have a wife.

Peter I lied.

Sophie And you said you weren't 'with someone' at the present.

Peter I lied again.

Sophie *[Brusquely]* Peter, it's not you that's made the mistake: it's me. *[She hangs up. Peter looks at `phone, sighs, puts it in his pocket and enters his 'home'. He is holding flowers behind his back]*

Peter Hi, Jessie, I'm home.

Jessie *[Going to greet him]* Oh, hello darling. *[They embrace briefly]* How was your business trip?

Peter Oh, you know: lots of meetings, fairly tedious. I've brought you some flowers. *[Holds them up. She takes them but looks puzzled]*

Jessie Some flowers? But you never bring me flowers.

Peter That's why I thought this time I would.

Jessie *[Suspiciously]* No special reason?

Peter No. I just saw them and I liked the look of them.

Jessie *[Doubtfully]* You liked the look of them?

Peter Yes. *[She starts to find vase to put flowers in. Peter takes off his jacket and hangs it on the back of one of the chairs at the table]*

Jessie Peter Do you love me?

Peter *[Lightly]* Jessie, you know I love you. I brought you flowers didn't I?

Jessie Well you won't mind checking on the children then?

Peter Of course not. *[Exit Peter. Jessie completes arrangement of flowers, which she places on the table. Then she notices his jacket. She draws along hair of the collar and examines it thoughtfully. Peter returns.]* The kids are fine: fast asleep.

Jessie Peter, do you love me?

Peter *[Realising a bolder answer is needed]* Yes, Jessie, you know I love you.

Jessie And you haven't forgotten you're looking after the children this weekend while I'm away with my friends.

Peter No, of course not.

Jessie You don't have any other plans?

Peter No, it's top of my list. You have a great time with your 'girlie' friends. You deserve a break. *[He goes to get himself a drink. While he is doing this, Jessie picks up his jacket and sniffs it. She detects an unfamiliar female perfume. She replaces the jacket.]*

Jessie Peter, do you love me?

Peter Look, what's this all about, Jessie. You know me inside out. You know I love you.

Jessie *[Looking directly at him]* Will you love me, comfort me, honour and protect me?

Peter *[Small laugh. Moves towards her]* I will *[Holds her round the waist]*

Jessie *[Staring straight into his eyes]* And forsaking all others, be faithful to me as long as we both shall live?

Peter *[Releasing her and turning away]* Ah. *[Takes a deep swig of his drink]*

THE END