

"I'm In Trouble George"

M/M - D
GEORGE
LEO

CHAPTER TWO

LEO

George, will you let somebody else in New York use the phone?

GEORGE

I'm sorry Leo. It was an important call. I had to take it.

LEO

Are you all right?

GEORGE

I'm wonderful. I'm terrific. I haven't felt this good in such a long time...
Listen, Leo, I'm glad you dropped by.

LEO

You look tired. You don't have good color in your face.

GEORGE

I'll have a painter come in Tuesday, he'll show me some swatches. Leo, will you
stop worrying about me. I want to talk to you.

LEO

I called you one o'clock in the morning last night, you weren't in.

GEORGE

I'm glad I wasn't. Why did you call me at 1:00 in the morning?

LEO

I couldn't sleep. I wanted to talk to you.

GEORGE

Leo, I am fine. Everything is wonderful.

LEO

I wanted to talk about me...I'm in trouble, George.

GEORGE

What?

LEO

Marilyn wants to leave me.

GEORGE

Oh, come on.

LEO

What is that, a joke? My wife wants to leave me.

GEORGE

Why?

LEO

She's got a list. Ask her, she'll show it to you...She doesn't like my lifestyle, she doesn't like the hours I keep, business, my friends, my indifference, my attitude, my coldness...and our marriage. Otherwise we're in good shape. Christ. I said to her, "Marilyn, show me a press agent who comes home at 6:00 and I'll show you a man who can't get Jimmy Carter's name in the newspapers." I'm in the theater. Life begins at 8:00. The world isn't just matinees.

GEORGE

She's not going to leave you, Leo. This has been going on for years.

LEO

I took on two extra shows this season. The money was good, we needed it. I can't tell what the future is. I've got to make it now. I've got two kids. I could be dead tomorrow.

GEORGE

That's possible. I guess she just wants to enjoy you while you're still alive.

LEO

(REFERRING TO GEORGE'S WIFE) I'm sorry, George.

GEORGE

Oh, come on, Leo. I know how you feel. You'll work it out. You always have.

LEO

Not this time...She's leaving me the morning after Pinocchio.

GEORGE

Pinocchio? What's that?

LEO

Tina is doing Pinocchio at school. Marilyn doesn't want to upset her until it's over. The kid isn't even playing the lead. She's a herring that gets swallowed by the whale.

GEORGE

When is the show?

LEO

The show is Thursday night. The only chance I have to keep her is if the play runs four years. I don't know what the hell I'm holding on to, anyway. I swear to God, I'll never get married again. You spend half your married life fighting to get back the feeling you had just before you got married.

GEORGE

Come on, Leo. You've got a good marriage...I know.

LEO

Really? I'll invite you to sleep in our bedroom one night, you can listen. I'll tell you, George. The trouble with marriage is that it's relentless. Every morning you wake up, it's still there. If I could just get a leave of absence every once in a while. A two week leave of absence. I used to get them all the time in the army, and I always came back...I don't know. I think it was different for you and Barbara. I'll tell you the truth, I always thought the two of you were a little crazy. But that's what made it work for you. You had a real bond of lunacy between you...Marilyn has no craziness. No fantasies. No uncharted territories to explore. I'm sitting there with maps for places in my mind I've never been, and she won't even pack an overnight bag. In 11 years she never once let me make love to her with the lights on. I said to her, Marilyn, come on, trust me, I won't tell anybody." So we stop growing, stop changing. And we stagnate...In our comfortable little house in the country...Oh, well, another 30, 35 years and it'll be over, right? All right, I've told someone. I feel better...Now, what the hell is it you feel so wonderful about?

GEORGE

You're an interesting man, Leo. Someday I'll have to get to know you...In the meantime there's this girl I've met...

LEO

You've gone out with her? You like her?

GEORGE

I like her, Leo. She's extraordinary.

LEO

Isn't that wonderful. You see, I knew you'd like her. I only spoke to her for 10 minutes, but I saw she had a vitality, a sparkle about her...I knew she would interest you.