

THE OFFSITE

by

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Cast:

Richard.....Male, 45-55. A software developer.

Lucy.....Female, 45-55. A software developer. Richard's ex-girlfriend.

Theo.....Male, 25-35. A software developer.

Tif.....Female, 20-30. An office manager. Richard's current girlfriend.

Homer.....Male, 30-45. A team-building workshop facilitator.

Location:

A conference room at a hotel.

Time:

The present.

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(Lights up on a conference room at a hotel. There is a whiteboard on an easel, back center, a table and five chairs. There is an overhead projector at left. There is a ceiling-mounted surveillance camera extreme downstage center; the camera is pointed upstage. There are twelve parallel strips of masking tape, 12-15 feet long, on the floor.)

Lucy, Richard and Theo enter from right.)

RICHARD  
(Consults piece of paper with directions)

This is it. Conference room 257.

LUCY  
(Takes directions from Richard)

Are you sure? Let me see that.

RICHARD  
When has my sense of direction ever let us down?

THEO  
This does seem to be the right—

LUCY  
There was that time when the company sent us to the retreat in Monterey. We ended up in Oakland, if I remember.

RICHARD  
That's only because I was distracted by a certain back-seat driver.

THEO  
Where is everyone else? Is Chad not coming?

RICHARD  
Chad and Doug are still visiting that customer in Tucson.

LUCY  
Patricia?

RICHARD  
She's the boss.

LUCY  
I think she said something about an important meeting.

THEO  
With Mr. M.B.?

RICHARD  
I would guess she's having another one of her extended "lunches".

LUCY  
Don't be vulgar.

RICHARD  
The truth is never vulgar.

LUCY  
Easy for you to say.

THEO  
And Hugo? What does he have this time? Neuralgia? Consumption? Bursitis?

RICHARD  
Shingles.

THEO  
Well, I'll give him points for plausibility.

LUCY  
Shingles are very painful.

THEO  
Not that he would know. How does he get away with it?

RICHARD  
He's written most of our software; no one else understands it.

LUCY  
The company wouldn't dare fire him.

THEO  
What about Tif?

LUCY  
Tiffany doesn't need to come. She's just the receptionist.

RICHARD  
She's the assistant office manager, not a receptionist.

LUCY  
She doesn't need to be here.

RICHARD

I'm sure Tif would benefit from this.

LUCY

Of course you would say that.

RICHARD

Do please try to act like a professional.

LUCY

You're the last person to lecture us on professionalism.

(Homer enters, carrying a bag full of supplies for  
the day's activities)

HOMER

Adirondack Software Systems? Advanced Project Group?

THEO

That's us.

HOMER

Well good afternoon! It's great to meet you! How's everybody doing today?

(Mumbling)

HOMER

Come on! How is everyone doing today?!

RICHARD

Very well, thank you.

LUCY

Fine.

THEO

Other than the consumption and the bursitis, pretty good.

HOMER

That's great! My name is Homer, and I'd like to welcome you to Resource Maximizers.  
Why don't we start out with introductions and name tags...

(Passes out nametags and pens. Richard, Theo and Lucy fill out their tags and attach them)

RICHARD

It's all right. We all work together.

HOMER

But I don't know your names. And I want to. I can't help you if I don't know who you are, now can I?

RICHARD

All right. Well—

HOMER

Can I?

RICHARD

No. I suppose you can't. I'm Richard Stevenson.

LUCY

My name is Lucy Cowell.

THEO

And I'm Theo. Theo Porter.

HOMER

Ah yes. Theo. I've been looking forward to meeting you. Very much so. Patty has said so many wonderful things about you.

THEO

Okay...

HOMER

Great! Now, why don't you all have a seat.

(Lucy, Theo and Richard sit down in chairs)

Now, does everyone know why you're here?

THEO

Because our company just laid off ten percent of its employees, and we're all terrified of losing our jobs?

RICHARD

Ignore him. We're here for a team-building workshop.

HOMER

That's right! I spoke with Patty earlier and she said that you've been having some issues.



LUCY

Some of us have been having issues. The rest of us have had to deal with the aftermath.

HOMER

Well, Patty said—

LUCY

Patricia.

HOMER

Excuse me?

LUCY

I've known Patricia for three years, and I've never heard her called "Patty."

THEO

Do you suppose Mr. M.B. calls her Patricia?

RICHARD

Miss Patricia, I would guess. Or "Ma'am".

HOMER

Patricia said there's been some friction recently.

THEO

What an astute way of phrasing it! Don't you think, Richard?

RICHARD

Theo...

HOMER

And today, we're all here to get things back on track. Unfortunately, Patricia couldn't be here in person—

THEO

(Imitating Patricia)

Oh! I'm so busy! I have meetings. I have long lunches. I have very—

HOMER

But she is joining us via the Internet.

THEO

What?

HOMER

(Indicates camera, downstage center)

See that camera? We've sending video and audio straight from this room to Patricia's computer.

THEO

Oh.

HOMER

We just hook it up to an Internet connection and it sends the signal right to Patricia's desktop. We can have workshops anywhere where there's access to the Internet. Isn't that just superb?

THEO

(Waves at camera, upstage right)

Hi, Patricia.

HOMER

Now, who here has not been to a Resource Maximizers workshop before?

(Theo, Lucy and Richard raise their hands)

A room full of virgins! Excellent!

LUCY

I beg your pardon?

THEO

He means we've never done one of these workshops before.

LUCY

I know what it means.

(To Homer)

Couldn't you use a less...explicit term?

HOMER

Don't worry, Lucy. You won't be a virgin by the time I'm through with you today. Now let me explain how this works. Today we're going to do the "Top Ten" sequence. We're going to do a series of exercises, and I'm going to rank your performance, as a team. From zero to ten.

RICHARD

I see! Hence "top ten".

HOMER

Actually, it's because there are ten exercises.

RICHARD

Oh.

HOMER

No problem! So, as a team, you'll get a total score from zero to 100. Now the great thing is, Patricia set a goal for all of you: 85!

THEO

A goal? What happens if we meet said goal?

HOMER

Patricia didn't say, Theo.

THEO

Well, I'm hoping for ice cream.

RICHARD

Oh.

THEO

What?

RICHARD

Um...nothing. Just something someone said to me yesterday.

LUCY

What?

RICHARD

I'll tell you later. But I think we really should try to hit that 85.

HOMER

That's the spirit, Richard! Now, we're going to start with an icebreaker—

TIF

(Tif enters from right)

Excuse me, is this...oh, I guess it is.

RICHARD

Tif! You made it!

LUCY

Great.

TIF

Hi, everyone.

HOMER

Hello! And you are?

TIF

My name's Tif. Tiffany Oakes. I'm sorry I'm late.

RICHARD

It's all right. We hadn't really started yet.

TIF

Where do I sign in?

HOMER

(Hands her a nametag and pen)

You don't need to sign in, Tif, but do please fill out a name tag, and then have a seat.

TIF

Okay.

(Tif fills out nametag. Tif notices Homer's nametag.)

Oh that's funny; your name's Homer.

HOMER

Why is that funny?

TIF

No, I mean...never mind.

(Tif sits in a chair. To Richard)

Oh, thank you for the flowers! That was so sweet!

RICHARD

It is our five-month anniversary.

TIF

I love that you remember stuff like that.

RICHARD

Not that I need a reason to give you flowers.

HOMER

Ahem.

TIF

Huh? Oh, sorry.

HOMER

No problem, Tif. As I was saying, we're going to start with an icebreaker. It's called "Storyteller". To start off, I need you to give me the name of something you'd see in a store.

(Beat)

Anyone?

RICHARD

Um....

THEO

A DS-153 model voice recorder with 150 hours of recording time and five customizable buttons.

(Beat)

Guess what I bought over the weekend.

HOMER

Great choice, Theo. Okay, a "voice recorder".

(Writes "voice recorder" on the whiteboard)

Next: something you would buy for yourself.

RICHARD

A car.

HOMER

(Writing each item down on the whiteboard as they are spoken)

Okay, a car. Next: someone's favorite sport.

TIF

Synchronized swimming!

LUCY

That's not a sport.

RICHARD

Don't discourage her.

HOMER

Synchronized swimming. A profession?

THEO

Oh, I know: gigolo.

HOMER  
Gigolo. Excellent. Someone's favorite restaurant? Anyone?

LUCY  
The Moulin Noir.

HOMER  
The Moulin Noir.

RICHARD  
But the Butterfly Square is your—

LUCY  
Not any more.

HOMER  
The name of someone in the room?

TIF  
How about: Richard.

HOMER  
Richard. A crime?

LUCY  
Adultery.

HOMER  
That's not really a crime, Lucy.

LUCY  
Fornication.

HOMER  
I don't think—

LUCY  
Fraud?

HOMER  
Fraud. Okay. Anyone's favorite celebrity?

TIF  
Sven Thorvalds.

HOMER  
The Swedish gymnast?

TIF  
Yeah. He's my favorite.

THEO  
Mine too.

TIF  
I could have guessed.

RICHARD  
We all could have guessed.

THEO  
What can I say? Gymnasts are hot.

HOMER  
Sven Thorvalds. Excellent choice, Tif. A tourist attraction?

THEO  
The world's largest ball of twine, in Cawker City, Kansas.

HOMER  
Good choice, Theo. Now you're going to tell a story. Once, I found the most unusual thing.

(Pause)

RICHARD  
What?

HOMER  
Huh?

RICHARD  
What did you find?

HOMER  
Oh, I'm sorry Richard! I thought I explained this. You all are going to assemble all of these elements into a story, one at a time.

LUCY  
We each take turns?

HOMER

Exactly. Each person takes one element from the list and uses that to add a line to the story.

RICHARD

I see.

TIF

How clever!

HOMER

Thanks, Tif! Now, I start you off. Once, I found the most unusual thing...

THEO

Okay. Once I found...uh...the largest ball of twine! Yet I was not in Cawker City. Or even Kansas. Anymore.

HOMER

(Crosses off "twine" entry)

Great! Now you, Tif.

TIF

Oh, okay. Um...I was in a store, buying a voice recorder.

HOMER

(Crosses off "voice recorder" entry; keeps crossing items off as they are used).

Richard?

RICHARD

The ball had been moved there by a gigolo.

LUCY

His name was Richard.

RICHARD

Very clever.

LUCY

I'm just helping the team with this project.

RICHARD

And what a good job you're doing, too. Whose turn now? Theo?

THEO

The gigolo...um...how about: the gigolo had been recently convicted of fraud.



For selling his car.

TIF

Why?

LUCY

Uh...well...because...

TIF

Tiffany...Tif, you don't get convicted for fraud for selling a car.

LUCY

I know that.

TIF

RICHARD

Actually, you can. If you misrepresent the state of the car. If I may? Richard was desperate to be rid of the clunker. It was old, ugly...

LUCY

Richard...

RICHARD

Noisy...

LUCY

Stop it!

RICHARD

Prone to breakdown...

LUCY

Richard!

RICHARD

And sometimes it leaked.

LUCY

Damn you!

(Lucy runs off, right. Theo runs after her)

THEO

Lucy!

RICHARD

What? It's just a story. I'm doing my part to help the team!

TIF

What's gotten into her?

RICHARD

I don't know, muffin. She's always been a little sensitive.

HOMER

Richard?

RICHARD

Yes?

HOMER

You forgot to use one of the elements from the list.

RICHARD

Oh! Sorry. So, he sold the car to the owner of the Moulin Noir.

HOMER

Okay, Richard! Now it's Theo's turn. Where'd he go?  
(Calls offstage right)

Theo?

(Homer exits right)

TIF

I can see why you left her. She gets upset really easily.

RICHARD

Being with her was like being Petruchio, stuck in Act II for years.

TIF

Huh?

RICHARD

Nothing. You know, you're so much easier to be with, muffin.

TIF

I love being with you too, snookums.

RICHARD

Is that a new blouse?

TIF

It is. And thank you. I just got it over the weekend.

RICHARD

It looks really good on you.

(Theo, Lucy and Homer enter from right)

THEO

Homer, can you give us a moment, please.

HOMER

No problem, Theo!

THEO

A truce, Richard.

LUCY

I'm willing to be civil, if you are.

RICHARD

Oh come on, Lucy. I thought we were just having a little fun.

THEO

Richard, please. No more sniping?

RICHARD

Sure.

THEO

Okay, Lucy?

LUCY

All right.

THEO

Look, I know that things have been rough between the two of you since you broke up, but—

LUCY

I'd really prefer not to bring that up here.

THEO

Sorry.

LUCY

It's all right.

THEO  
Okay. Oh, Richard?

RICHARD  
Yes?

THEO  
You were saying something before about...when Homer mentioned getting 85 points.

TIF  
85 points?

THEO  
Our goal for the day.

RICHARD  
Oh, that. Well, Patricia mentioned that the last round of layoffs was probably not the last.

THEO  
I think we all figured that.

RICHARD  
There's been a rumor that our group has been targeted.

TIF  
It's not a rumor.

THEO  
Oh.

LUCY  
Damn.

RICHARD  
She said that our team morale has been noticed.

THEO  
Our lack of it, you mean.

RICHARD  
Right. Patricia is trying to convince them that we do work together well. I think she thinks that if we get a high enough score, she can make a case to the executive staff.

THEO  
Do you think we can do it?

RICHARD

How hard can it be? I've been to these workshops before. They're all the same.

HOMER

Ready to finish the icebreaker, guys?

RICHARD

Sure!

HOMER

Great! We've got two more items on our list. Theo, it's your turn.

THEO

What was the story?

RICHARD

"Richard" had been convicted of fraud for selling a defective car to the owner of the Moulin Noir.

THEO

Okay. Um...the owner was none other than Sven Thorvalds. Your turn, Tif.

TIF

Who did synchronized swimming in his spare time.

(Pause, as Homer crosses off the "synchronized swimming" line)

The end!

HOMER

The end! Okay, guys. I'm going to give you five points for that.

(Homer erases whiteboard, writes "5" on it, and puts it to the side).

LUCY

What? Only five?

HOMER

First, I'm taking points off because of the distinct lack of team spirit. Second, because the story didn't really have an end. And third, because synchronized swimming isn't really a sport.

RICHARD

Oh, for the love of...why didn't you mention that before?

HOMER

You have to work out these things as a team.

LUCY

Well, I need some coffee before we go on.

LUCY (CONT.)

(Indicates coffee pot on table)

Is that fresh?

HOMER

Good idea, Lucy!

(Homer, Lucy and Richard move to coffee table)

TIF

That sounds good, actually.

THEO

Tif...

(Beat)

I'm glad you could make it.

TIF

Oh, thanks, Theo. Originally I wasn't supposed to come, but Richard talked to Patricia and said I should.

THEO

So, you two have been together for five months?

TIF

Yeah. Five months.

THEO

What? Something wrong?

TIF

Oh, no. Everything's fine.

THEO

Just "fine"?

TIF

Well...it's just when Richard and Lucy start up...it's gotten a little old.

THEO

Yeah

TIF

What about you? Are you seeing anyone?

THEO

Nope. No one right now.

TIF

Hmmm. You know, Theo...we should hang out some time. You've been at the company for four months, and I feel like I hardly know you.

THEO

That would be nice, Tif.

HOMER

Hey, you two! We're back! Are you ready to play?

THEO

Sure.

HOMER

Great! Now, why don't you all have a seat.

(Everyone sits)

The next team building exercise is called "The Coin." This is an easy one. Richard?

RICHARD

Yes?

HOMER

I hear that you have some change in your pocket. Would you please take it out and find the oldest coin?

RICHARD

(Takes handful of change out of pocket)

All right. Let me see here. Here's a 2008... '94... '02... '97...another '97...oh, here we go. This one is from 1985.

HOMER

That's perfect. Now, I want each one of you to describe what you were doing that year.

RICHARD

Well, let's see...I was in my first year of graduate school. I had thought I wanted to get a Ph.D., but that's the year I decided not to. I guess I discovered that I was better suited to be an engineer than a researcher.

HOMER

Great! And you, Lucy?

LUCY

I was a freshman in college. I did all of the usual college things. Had a boyfriend. Joined my sorority. It was nice. I know that the first year of college I supposed to be difficult, but it seems like it was one of the most carefree years of my life.

HOMER

Nice, Lucy. Tif, how about you?

TIF

Um...I wasn't born yet.

LUCY

Oh, really? Why doesn't that surprise me?

RICHARD

Don't hold her youth against her, Lucy.

LUCY

Of course not. I apologize, Tif. Youth is so fleeting. Don't you agree, Richard?

RICHARD

I don't know. Why don't you share with us your vast experience with aging.

THEO

I was in kindergarten! Yes, kindergarten. I don't really remember that much. Lots of naps. Paste eating. Yes, I ate a lot of paste that year.

RICHARD

Ugh. Thank you Theo.

HOMER

Yes, thank you Theo. I'll give you seven points for that.

RICHARD

Seven? What are we losing points for now?

HOMER

(Writes "7" on the board, along with the total: 12)

Tif couldn't participate.

LUCY

That's hardly our fault.



HOMER

You provided the coin, Richard.

RICHARD

I was following your instructions.

HOMER

Yes, well, sometimes a team needs to adapt to the situation at hand.

THEO

Huh?

RICHARD

I think he's saying life is unfair.

HOMER

Teams need to adapt. Richard should have known, or asked, whether anyone was born after 1985. And Tif, you should have spoken up at first.

TIF

Oh. Sorry, everyone.

RICHARD

Don't worry about it muf...Tif. I guess we just need to be more aggressive.

HOMER

That's the spirit! Take the bull by the tail and face the situation!

RICHARD

Right.

HOMER

Our third exercise is really great. It's called "Know Your Neighbor." I've written everyone's name on these slips of paper.

(Homer hands slips of paper to Richard, Lucy, Theo and Tif)

Here's one for you, for you, you, and this one's for you.

RICHARD

I've got Tif.

LUCY

Theo.

Lucy. THEO

Richard. TIF

So, what are we supposed to do? RICHARD

You describe the worst characteristic of the person whose name you got. HOMER

What? RICHARD

You're kidding. THEO

Not at all. HOMER

This is a horrible exercise. RICHARD

It's a standard team-building technique. HOMER

Whose standard is this? RICHARD

This has been a Resource Maximizers technique for years. HOMER

How do you stay in business? THEO

Trust me, Theo. It works. HOMER

But I don't want to say bad things about Richard. Why did you give me his name? TIF

I mixed them up. HOMER

Sure you did.

RICHARD

You don't believe me?

HOMER

I think we should do the exercise.

LUCY

Lucy?

RICHARD

For the good of the team. We all understand that this is for the good of the team. Homer is a professional. We should trust him.

LUCY

I'm glad to see that someone is beginning to understand the R.M. process.

HOMER

But Lucy—

TIF

And if you don't believe me, Richard, I suppose there's no point in continuing this workshop.

HOMER

What?!

RICHARD

I need to have your trust in order for the R.M. process to work. If I don't have that, I'll just end the workshop right now and give you all a zero for the day.

RICHARD

You don't need to do that.

HOMER

So you do trust me?

RICHARD

Sure.

HOMER

Let me hear you say it.

RICHARD

I trust you, Homer.

HOMER

And you trust that I mixed up the names, like I said?

RICHARD

Yes, I'm sure that you mixed up the names, like you said.

HOMER

Great! Do you want to start us off?

RICHARD

Oh. Okay. So...

(Beat)

Um, what sort of thing do we need to describe?

HOMER

You need to tell us all Tif's worst characteristic. The thing about her that irritates you the most. The one thing that—

RICHARD

Yes, yes, I get it...Um...well...I guess the thing I dislike the most is Tif's rigor in running the office. It would be nice if she would let me get away with something now and then.

HOMER

Richard.

RICHARD

Yes?

HOMER

I understand that you might want to use the "weakness that is really a strength" thing, but in order for the R.M. process to work, you need to be totally honest.

RICHARD

But—

HOMER

Honesty, Richard.

TIF

It's okay, snookums. I can take it.

RICHARD

Well...okay. I guess what I really dislike is Tif's...lack of cultural...sophistication.

TIF

What?

RICHARD

Depth! I meant depth! I mean...

TIF

(Stands)

Richard, how can you say that?

RICHARD

(Stands)

I don't think you're a bad person, Tif. You're sweet, kind, a diligent worker.

TIF

But I'm dumb.

RICHARD

What? No, you're not dumb. You're just inexperienced.

TIF

Inexperienced?!

RICHARD

What I mean is—

TIF

I know who Mr. M.B. is. Do you?

HOMER

Mr. M.B.?

TIF

Patricia's "mystery boyfriend." No one in the office has met him.

HOMER

You do?!

THEO

Tif, did you know Patricia is watching right now?

TIF

Watching?

(Theo points to camera)

TIF

Oh.

RICHARD

You're not dumb, Muffin. I just feel like I can't talk to you about so many things. Politics. Books. I can't take you to the theatre, I can't—

TIF

Is that what this is about? That stupid Shakespeare play? I can't help if I can't tell what they're saying.

RICHARD

You should have read the summary I gave you beforehand.

TIF

I did. It didn't help. I can't even pronounce the name! Cory-whatever.

LUCY

Coriolanus?

RICHARD

But I still love you, Muffin.

TIF

Well, why don't you ever want to do anything I want to do?

RICHARD

What?

TIF

Like the concert. I went to your stupid play, why won't you go to the concert?

RICHARD

Oh. That. Well, it's not really my type of music, Muffin.

TIF

But The Fetal Pigs are a really good band!

RICHARD

I'm sure they are, but—

TIF

I even got us backstage passes!

THEO  
You got backstage passes to the Pigs concert?

TIF  
Yup.

THEO  
How did you do that?

TIF  
I know people.

RICHARD  
All right, fine. I'll go.

TIF  
Never mind. I don't want you to go.

RICHARD  
But you said—

TIF  
That was before.

RICHARD  
Muffin—

TIF  
(Sits)  
Who's next? Homer, whose turn is it?

HOMER  
Lucy, how about you? By the way, that was great, guys.

RICHARD  
Excuse me?

HOMER  
That's the sort of dynamic interaction that leads to really strong teams!

THEO  
Really?

HOMER  
Oh, yes.

THEO  
Well, go team. Okay, Lucy. Hit me.

LUCY  
Oh. Ah...oh, I know. You're coarse.

THEO  
Coarse?

LUCY  
You're very free with your choice of lifestyle.

THEO  
You mean my sexual orientation?

LUCY  
Yes.

THEO  
But Lucy, I thought that's what you liked the best about me.

LUCY  
I don't care. Really. But must you talk about it all the time?

THEO  
It's just talk. It's not like I'm snogging Sven Thorvalds in the office supply closet.

LUCY  
You see what I have to put up with?

THEO  
Though that would be hot.

LUCY  
Thank you. Your turn, Theo.

THEO  
Well, Lucy. I don't like that you hate gay people.

LUCY  
Oh, Theo, I don't hate gay people.

THEO  
Wanting us to be in the closet. Hiding. In the bushes—



Is that what you think? LUCY

You know it's true. THEO

This is about Tucker, isn't it? LUCY

Tucker? THEO

My nephew. LUCY  
(To Homer)

I told you, I'd be happy to introduce you. It's just— (To Theo)

You would? Really? THEO

It's just that that side of the family is a little...odd. I don't want you to get hurt. LUCY

But— THEO

I don't want to go into it here. But do please understand that if I'm a little hesitant, it's only because I care about you. LUCY

Oh. I didn't realize. Well...thank you. I had no idea you were just looking out for me. THEO

A breakthrough! HOMER

What? LUCY

A breakthrough. A moment of understanding. This is what teams are made out of! HOMER

I thought teams were made out of people. THEO

HOMER

A common misunderstanding. Groups of people are just...groups of people. Teams are made out of bonds between people. It's through moments like these that your team will become strong.

THEO

Well...hooray.

HOMER

Good idea, Theo. Come on, everyone. Stand up!

(Everyone stands)

Hip hip...

RICHARD, THEO, TIF, LUCY

Hooray?

HOMER

Come on, guys! Hip hip...

RICHARD, THEO, TIF, LUCY

Hooray.

HOMER

Hip hip...

RICHARD, THEO, TIF, LUCY

Hooray!

HOMER

Hip hip...

RICHARD, THEO, TIF, LUCY

Hooray!

HOMER

Now, doesn't that feel good?

THEO

I guess it sort of does.

HOMER

Great! Have a seat everyone. Your turn, Tif.

(Everyone except Homer sits)

TIF

Well...I already said about how Richard doesn't like to do the things I like to do.

HOMER

But is that what you hate about him the most? The thing that most makes you want to scream in frustration?

TIF

No.

HOMER

What then? We're all eager to find out.

TIF

Well...I guess it has to do with lack of energy. His lack of...what's the word...stamina! Yes, stamina.

RICHARD

Tif...

HOMER

You'll need to go into more detail. When have you noticed him lacking stamina?

TIF

I guess last Friday comes to mind.

RICHARD

Tif, this isn't appropriate!

TIF

Oh, I think it's appropriate. As you pointed out, we all have our limitations.

RICHARD

We should keep this work-related.

TIF

I am keeping this work-related.

RICHARD

No you're not!

TIF

Well, we work together. So, technically any time we're together it's work-related.

RICHARD

It should be something that relates to what happens in the office.

TIF

Oh, well then how about that Saturday two weeks ago—

RICHARD

Tif!

HOMER

Now, now Richard! Tif is quite correct. Any interaction between you two is of interest to the team.

LUCY

Oh. Yes. I agree completely. Do please continue, Tif.

TIF

Though it helps when you take those pills.

THEO

Pills?

TIF

Oh yes. One of those and he's good for hours.

RICHARD

Are we done yet?

HOMER

Sure, Richard. You know, we've made real progress here. I'm going to give you all ten points for that.

(Homer writes "10" on the board, and updates the total to "22")

THEO

Wow.

HOMER

Just seven more sessions like that, and we'll be done.

RICHARD

Oh, God.

HOMER

But it's now time for our scheduled break. Be back in five minutes, everyone.

RICHARD

Thank you!

(Richard, Lucy and Tif exit right. Theo is about to exit but Homer stops him.)

HOMER

Hi, Theo. So, what do you think of the workshop?

THEO

Oh. Uh, well...it's interesting.

HOMER

Yes, it is, isn't it? Did you know I'm one of the founders of R.M.?

THEO

No.

HOMER

One gets to meet so many interesting people.

THEO

I expect.

HOMER

So...I liked your choice of celebrities.

THEO

My...?

HOMER

Sven Thorvalds.

THEO

Wasn't that Tif's choice?

HOMER

But you like him too, if I remember...

THEO

Yes...

HOMER

You know, Theo...

THEO

Yes?

HOMER  
Patty...Patricia told me so much about you. But she didn't do you justice.

THEO  
Okay.

HOMER  
I like you, Theo.

THEO  
Oh. Oh? You...like me?

HOMER  
I think you're quite handsome.

THEO  
Thank you. So you're...?

HOMER  
I hate labels.

THEO  
I see.

HOMER  
I was wondering if, after the workshop, you'd like to have coffee. Or dinner. Or whatever.

THEO  
Ah, well...I don't know—

HOMER  
Oh, you're not single.

THEO  
It's not that.

HOMER  
I'm not your type?

THEO  
No, you're a good looking guy, it's...

HOMER  
Oh, thank you, Theo. You're quite the hottie as well. You work out, don't you.

THEO

Should we be having this conversation? I mean, with Patricia listening in.

HOMER

Oh, she doesn't mind. I think she wants us to get together.

(Lucy reenters)

THEO

Really?!?

HOMER

We'll talk later.

(Homer exits right. Theo again tries to exit but is stopped by Lucy. At some point during their conversation Tif and Richard enter.)

LUCY

You know, Theo...I think it's time.

THEO

Time?

LUCY

Time to start the "but maybe with the right woman" stage.

THEO

With Tif? Oh thank God. It's about time. It's not easy pretending to be gay. Especially for three months.

LUCY

You're very convincing.

THEO

I should have just told Tif how I felt about her from the beginning. And what do you mean "very convincing?"

LUCY

You're a good actor. That's all.

THEO

Well, I'm doing such a good job I've got Homer convinced, too.

Really? LUCY

He just invited me to dinner. THEO

Well, you two would make an interesting couple. LUCY

Hey, I only pretended because you said it was guaranteed to get me Tif. THEO

I don't know about guaranteed— LUCY

What?! THEO

But I'm still confident. Go for it. LUCY

Oh, I will. THEO

(Beat)

You really think it's going to work? LUCY

Trust me, Theo. I want this as much as you do. LUCY

(Enters while talking on cell phone)

Yes, uh...you think so? HOMER

Oh...here he comes. THEO

You were right about Theo. HOMER

Is that Patricia? LUCY

Oh! Probably... THEO



HOMER

Good idea! All right. Bye.

(Homer hangs up phone)

Okay, everyone back? Good. Now our next exercise is called “Truth Racing.” I need everyone to stand up and stand on that line over there.

(Richard, Theo, Tif and Lucy line up on line upstage)

RICHARD

Tif, I—

TIF

I don't want to talk about it.

HOMER

All lined up? Good. Now, see those lines on the floor? I'm going to read off some statements. If the statement is true, take a step forward to the line in front of you. If it's false, take a step back. Unless you're at the starting line, of course. Then you just stay there.

THEO

Good. I wouldn't want to end up in the hallway.

RICHARD

I would.

HOMER

The first person across this finish line is the winner. Any questions?

TIF

What's the prize?

HOMER

Prize?

TIF

For the winner.

HOMER

Oh, well...there isn't a prize.

TIF

What's our motivation to win, then?

HOMER

You don't really need a motivation. Do you? It's not that sort of race.

THEO

I agree with Tif. It would be nice to have some sort of prize.

TIF

Thank you.

HOMER

How about I give you your prize after the workshop?

THEO

That will be fine. I guess.

HOMER

Great! Everybody ready?

(Murmurs of assent)

HOMER

Okay, first question. "I have worked at the company for more than one year."

(Tif forward. Richard forward. Lucy forward. Theo still).

HOMER

I like my job.

(All take one step forward)

HOMER

Really? Good for you. Next statement: "I am a homosexual."

LUCY

What sort of statement is that?

HOMER

We're just trying to break down barriers.

(Tif backward. Richard backward. Lucy backward. Theo still).

THEO

I hate labels too. Can I stay where I am?

HOMER

You need to choose, Theo.

THEO

I think I'll just not move.

HOMER

If you're not going to move, I'll have to dock the team a point.

THEO

Fine.

(Takes one step forward)

HOMER

Great! I have acted in a play at least once.

(Tif forward. Richard forward. Lucy back. Theo forward).

HOMER

I am attracted to someone in this room.

RICHARD

Excuse me?

THEO

Is that appropriate?

HOMER

Of course. It's standard R.M.

THEO

I'm sure it is.

HOMER

Patricia signed both the standard and maximum releases, so we're fine. So...I am attracted to someone in this room.

(Tif forward. Richard forward. Lucy back. Theo forward)

HOMER

I would be open to dating someone in this room.

(Tif forward. Richard forward. Lucy back. Theo forward).

HOMER

Lucy, you were at the starting line. You didn't need to step back.

LUCY

Oh.

(Lucy steps forward to line)

HOMER

When I'm on a date, I like to go to concerts.

(Everyone takes one step forward)

TIF

Don't lie, Richard.

RICHARD

I like most concerts just fine.

HOMER

I like Italian food.

(Tif forward. Richard back. Lucy forward. Theo forward).

TIF & LUCY

You don't like...?

TIF

You don't like Italian food?

RICHARD

Well, actually...no, not really.

THEO

I do.

HOMER

So do I. What about walks on the beach?

(Tif forward. Richard back. Lucy forward. Theo forward)

That I can believe.

LUCY

Acapulco?

HOMER

(Tif forward. Richard back. Lucy back. Theo forward)

Ugh!

LUCY & RICHARD

What?

THEO

Nothing.

LUCY

Just a trip Lucy-fer here and I took once.

RICHARD

You don't need to go into detail.

LUCY

Don't I?

RICHARD

No you don't.

LUCY

I think I do.

RICHARD

No, you don't.

TIF

Fine. Just...a piece of advice: brush your teeth with beer while in Mexico. Not tap water.

RICHARD

Okay, folks. Theo is one step away from victory! The final statement is...I have no plans tonight.

HOMER

(Tif forward. Richard forward. Lucy forward. Theo back)

HOMER  
(To Theo)  
You're busy tonight?

THEO  
Um...yeah.

HOMER  
Tomorrow night?

(Everyone takes one step back)

HOMER  
Saturday night?

(Tif forward. Richard back. Lucy forward. Theo back)

RICHARD  
Uh, Tif, we have—

TIF  
I told you, I'm not going with you to the concert.

HOMER  
Sunday afternoon!

(Tif forward. Richard forward. Lucy forward. Theo back).

TIF  
Hey, I won!

HOMER  
Uh, well...

THEO  
She's right! Congratulations, Tif!

TIF  
Thanks!

THEO  
You know, if you have an extra ticket for Saturday night...

HOMER

I thought you were busy Saturday night!

THEO

Oh, yeah, um...well, perhaps if I can rearrange my schedule.

HOMER

I'll have to penalize the team if you weren't totally honest.

THEO

Maybe next time, Tif.

RICHARD

So, how many points was that?

HOMER

Eight.

(Writes "8" on the board)

LUCY

Making our total thirty.

HOMER

(Updates total to "30")

Thirty. Yes.

TIF

We're doing pretty well, actually!

HOMER

Yes. Um. All right, our next game is called "Shoes and Socks". Now I need everyone to take off their shoes and socks, or stockings, or whatever, and put them—

(Homer's cell phone rings)

Oh, hold on a moment.

TIF

You want us to do what?!

HOMER

Oh, hi. Yes it is going pretty well, isn't it? What?

LUCY

I'm not going to take off my stockings.

HOMER

But...I love the Shoes and Socks game...what?

RICHARD

Oh come on, Lucy. What did you say before? We should trust Homer because he's a professional?

LUCY

I absolutely refuse—

RICHARD

It's for the good of the team!

HOMER

(To cell phone)

Oh all right. Bye.

(To everyone)

Hold on everyone! Put your shoes and socks back on. We're going to do something different.

THEO

So no "Shoes and Socks"?

HOMER

No, Patricia would like us to do "Troubled Caller" instead.

RICHARD

Patricia is giving you advice?

HOMER

Patricia believes a different exercise would be of more benefit. First, I need everyone seated for this.

(Everyone except Homer sits)

Now, the four of you are running a radio call-in show. I'm a troubled caller. I'll "call in" with a problem and you try to help me. Only one person, the host, can talk to the caller, but the host can consult the other three.

LUCY

Who's the host?

HOMER

You'll each take turns.

RICHARD

So who's first?



HOMER  
Let's start with... Tif.

TIF  
What do I need to do?

HOMER  
Just introduce yourself and the show, and then ask what my problem is.

TIF  
Okay.

HOMER  
Ring ring.  
(Pause)  
Ring ring.

TIF  
Oh, am I supposed to answer Okay, uh...hello, caller, welcome to "Tif Talk". What's your problem?

HOMER  
Hi, Tif. My name is Homer. I have a problem with my car.

TIF  
But I don't know anything about cars.

HOMER  
Are you saying you can't help me?

TIF  
No, I...

HOMER  
Because I'll hang up if you can't help me.

RICHARD  
She can help you!

TIF  
Richard, I can handle this.

RICHARD  
Don't worry, Tif, I'll help.

TIF

I'll let you know if I need your help. Caller, what's your problem?

HOMER

I have a nasty smell coming out of my car.

THEO

I bet he stepped in a dog pile and tracked it into the car.

TIF

Ew.

LUCY

That's disgusting. He probably just spilled something in the car and has a little mildew.

RICHARD

I bet something got into the heating system.

TIF

Caller, I think you tracked in some dog poop. It's probably on your floor mats.

HOMER

No, I thought about that. I've cleaned everything inside, but it hasn't helped.

RICHARD

Definitely something in the heating system.

TIF

Could it be mildew? Perhaps you spilled something.

HOMER

I don't think so. It smells rotten.

RICHARD

It's something in the heating system. Probably a mouse.

TIF

What?

RICHARD

A mouse probably got into the heating system and died.

LUCY

That's crazy. Why would a mouse crawl into a car's heating system?

RICHARD

It happens all the time.

LUCY

How would you know? You can't even figure out how to put windshield wiper fluid in a car without going to the dealer.

RICHARD

That was your car, and if you wouldn't buy those cheap Bulgarian models, that wouldn't be a problem.

Tif, tell him he needs to take apart the heating system in his car, find the dead mouse or whatever it is and clean it out.

TIF

Theo? What do you think?

THEO

I think Richard's right. The only alternative is to wait for the mouse to finish decaying. Maybe if he sprayed a lot of air freshener into the air intake...

TIF

Lucy?

LUCY

Why you would want to trust the advice of someone who thinks a Volvo comes from Bulgaria is beyond me. But you're the host, Tif.

TIF

Caller? Are you still there?

HOMER

Yes, Tif, I'm still here.

TIF

You have a dead mouse in your heating system. You're either going to need to take the heating system apart and clean it out, or wait for it to finish rotting.

HOMER

Thanks, Tif. I'll have my mechanic clean it out. Bye!

TIF

Bye, Homer.

HOMER  
(Hangs up “phone”)

Click. Very good, guys. That’s just how it should work.

LUCY

Is that a “standard R.M.” scenario?

HOMER

No, that's a problem I'm having with my car, actually.

LUCY

Oh.

HOMER  
(To Theo)

You're up next, Theo. Ring ring.

THEO

Hello, caller. Welcome to Thursdays with Theo. What’s your name and where are you calling from?

HOMER

Hi, Theo. I’m Sven and I’m calling from Los Palos, California.

THEO

Hi...Sven. What can I do for you?

HOMER

Well, there’s this man I'm interested in. Let's call him Mr. T.

THEO

You're gay.

HOMER

I love everybody. But especially Mr. T.

THEO

Why couldn't I have gotten the dead mouse question?

HOMER

But I’m not sure Mr. T is interested in me. What should I do?

RICHARD

Be upfront. Tell him how you feel.

THEO

I don't think that's such a good idea.

RICHARD

Life is short. Don't waste a moment. Tell him to be aggressive.

THEO

I definitely don't think that's a good idea.

TIF

Aggression is overrated. Tell him to be subtle.

THEO

Be subtle, caller. Very, very subtle.

LUCY

He might not be interested. You don't want to impose yourself.

THEO

Good point! Don't impose yourself!

RICHARD

Nonsense. Do impose yourself! Even if he's not interested at first, he can be brought around.

TIF

But he'll regret it. Eventually.

LUCY

Exactly. And how does Sven know that this guy is even gay?

THEO

Yes! How do you know he's gay?

HOMER

He told me.

THEO

Oh.

HOMER

He also said I was handsome.

RICHARD

Well, that settles it. He is definitely interested.

Um...

THEO

RICHARD

You have to tell him yourself, Theo.

THEO

He...is...definitely...interested.

HOMER

That's great! But how do I break the ice?

TIF

Flowers.

THEO

Flowers?

HOMER

Flowers?

TIF

Flowers! Gay guys love to get flowers.

THEO

Gay guys apparently love to get flowers, caller.

HOMER

Of course! What a wonderful idea.

THEO

Well, fabulous. Anything else I can help you with?

HOMER

No, that's it! Thanks, Theo, you've been a lot of help.

THEO

No problem, caller. Thank you so very much for calling.

HOMER

Click. That was great, guys! You all came together perfectly for that! You're up, Lucy!  
Ring ring.

LUCY

Hello and welcome to...I don't know...Lucy's...talk...show. What's your name?

HOMER  
Hi, Lucy. This is Kim.

LUCY  
Hello, Kim.

HOMER  
Am I on the air?

LUCY  
Yes, Kim. What's your problem?

HOMER  
I'm dating this person...a woman. She's nice. Sensible. We have a good relationship.

LUCY  
Sounds good to me. What's the issue?

HOMER  
She's boring. Really boring. And difficult to get along with.

LUCY  
Nice, but difficult to get along with?

RICHARD  
Probably no spontaneity. I'd bet she's about as impulsive as a houseplant.

HOMER  
And she can be a quite demanding.

LUCY  
Maybe you're the one with the problem, Kim.

HOMER  
But now I've met someone new.

LUCY  
Oh really. Someone younger, perhaps?

HOMER  
Oh yes, she's much younger.

RICHARD  
Good for you, caller!

HOMER  
And much better looking.

LUCY

I'm not going to play this.

HOMER

The problem is that we don't have much in common. And she's a little...uh...

TIF

She's a little what?

HOMER

Modern. For my tastes. What should I do?

THEO

I'm a strong believer in dating someone your own age.

TIF

He doesn't respect his new girlfriend. He doesn't deserve her.

RICHARD

Oh come on, they're just different. That makes it exciting.

TIF

Exciting for him, sure.

LUCY

Caller...Kim. I need you to listen very carefully.

HOMER

Okay.

LUCY

You are having what one calls a "mid-life crisis."

RICHARD

I don't think—

LUCY

You're getting old. You've noticed the wrinkles. The gray hairs. The aches. The pains. The lack of stamina. Let's face it: you feel death's icy breath on your neck.

RICHARD

Now you're being melodramatic—



LUCY

So you've grabbed onto someone else's youth, in a desperate attempt to regain your own. Well, dear, it doesn't work that way. You don't get younger, just more pathetic. Let me give you some advice. Go buy a new car. A convertible. A cherry red convertible. That's the traditional coping technique for men who care about the women in their lives.

HOMER

Okay—

LUCY

Stop acting like you're twenty-five. Learn to appreciate what maturity and experience can give you.

HOMER

Thank y—

LUCY

Have I made myself absolutely crystal clear?

HOMER

Yes. Absolutely. Thank you. Bye. Click.

LUCY

How was that?

HOMER

Fine. Good. Very good. I especially liked your advice about dating people your own age, Theo.

THEO

Thanks.

HOMER

You're the last one, Richard. Ring ring.

RICHARD

Hello, caller. Welcome to...uh...

THEO

“The Richard Hour”?

RICHARD

“The Richard Hour”. To whom am I speaking?

HOMER

Bob.

How are you today, Bob?  
RICHARD

Okay, I guess.  
HOMER

Did you want to talk about anything?  
RICHARD

I killed the mailman.  
HOMER

What?!?  
RICHARD

I killed the mailman and buried him in my backyard.  
HOMER

That's horrible!  
TIF

I killed the mailman, and then I took his mail. And do you know what I did with it?  
HOMER

No.  
RICHARD

I delivered it myself!  
HOMER

Why?  
RICHARD

I've always wanted to deliver mail!  
HOMER

Isn't that rather extreme?  
RICHARD

What should I have done?  
HOMER

Have you ever thought about...just...applying for a job at the Post Office?  
RICHARD

I did. They turned me down.

HOMER

Imagine that.

THEO

Maybe he should deliver packages instead.

TIF

Caller, have you thought about joining a package delivery company?

RICHARD

They turned me down, too.

HOMER

Caller, would you—

RICHARD

But I have a problem!

HOMER

We know.

THEO

I have run out of mail.

HOMER

Oh God. I need another coffee. Or perhaps a beer. Anyone want to join me?

LUCY

The mailman didn't have much mail with him.

HOMER

And so now...

RICHARD

And so now I need to find another mailman.

HOMER

Okay. Well, suggestions, anyone?

RICHARD

He should get a mailman early in the morning, before they've delivered much. They last longer that way.

THEO

Or raid a mailbox.

LUCY

He could hijack a mail truck.

TIF

Or marry a woman mail carrier. They could deliver mail together.

THEO

I know! He could start his own delivery service.

LUCY

Rob, I—

RICHARD

Bob!

THEO

Bob. Bob, I need you to consider something.

RICHARD

Yes?

HOMER

I need you to consider the possibility...

RICHARD

Yes?

HOMER

...that you are totally nuts.

RICHARD

What?!

HOMER

You're crazy.

RICHARD

I am not crazy!

HOMER

You're criminally insane. Or maybe just delusional. Maybe you just made this all up. Do us all a favor. Go jump off a bridge. A tall one.

RICHARD

HOMER  
Click.

RICHARD  
Preferably one over a rocky gorge.

HOMER  
Click! Click click click! I hung up.

RICHARD  
It's a radio show. You can still hear me.

HOMER  
I have turned the radio off.

RICHARD  
Too bad.

HOMER  
You were all doing fine until that last one.

THEO  
I felt like part of a team.

HOMER  
Seven points! I'm giving you seven points for that exercise!  
(Writes "7" on the board, and updates the total to "37")

RICHARD  
Well, what was I supposed to do with that?

HOMER  
The R.M. solution is to talk me into turning myself in.

RICHARD  
And how were we supposed to do that?

HOMER  
Through teamwork.

LUCY  
What does that mean?

HOMER

You come together and work out a solution.

LUCY

I know that. But how? What process?

HOMER

You work it out for yourself.

LUCY

That's not an answer.

HOMER

That's how the R.M. process works.

LUCY

And does the R.M. process also involve people's personal lives?

HOMER

What do you mean?

LUCY

You know exactly what I mean. That "troubled caller" scenario you gave me. Don't tell me you got that out of some manual.

HOMER

Group leaders are supposed to improvise from the team's dynamics.

LUCY

That wasn't "team dynamics." That was my life you were butting into.

HOMER

I'm sorry if the exercise was not to your liking, but—

LUCY

"Not to my liking?" It was terrible. And unethical.

HOMER

Don't try to tell me my job. I've been building successful teams for the past three years. You're the one with the problem.

LUCY

Successful teams? A wake of destruction is more likely.

HOMER

Lucy. Let me explain how this works. I provide the exercises, and you do them. The R.M. process works when the team members do exactly as they are told. If you want us to be successful, and I know you want us to be successful, you will do the exercises. I am the one who decides on the exercises. I am the one who decides how they are structured. And I am the one who controls how this all turns out. So it is in your best interest to follow all of my instructions, immediately and without question.

(Beat)

I think we need another break, so that everyone can think about this. I'll see you back here in fifteen minutes.

(Homer exits right)

LUCY

Now I really do need a beer.

(Lucy exits right)

THEO

Well.

RICHARD

Yes. You know, a beer sounds like a good idea right now. Anyone want to join me?

TIF

I'm going to stay here.

(Richard exits right)

TIF

Wow.

THEO

Yeah.

TIF

I've never seen Lucy so angry.

THEO

I think she had reason to be.

TIF

Yeah. You know, Theo, I'm not sure about what I said before. About you and Homer...

THEO

Really?

TIF

He seems...weird.

THEO

I don't know if it's him, or the "R.M. process."

TIF

I know you like him, but you don't need to defend him.

THEO

No, it's not that. I don't...he just took something I said out of context and assumed things...

TIF

Oh.

THEO

Actually, Tif, you know...I'm not really. Well...

TIF

Yes?

THEO

I'm not...you know...as I said, I don't like labels. I know that I said I'm, well...but, you know, maybe with the right woman...

(Homer reenters, right, unseen by Theo and Tif)

TIF

Well, it's about time.

THEO

What?

TIF

Come on, Theo. I can tell the difference between a guy who is attracted to me and one who is not.

THEO

Well. Why didn't you say anything?

TIF

I wanted to see what you were trying to do. And I was dating Richard.

THEO

And now?



Richard's a jerk. I deserve better.

TIF

I do like you, Tif.

THEO

Well. Won't Richard be surprised!

TIF

Perhaps we ought not to...

THEO

So you were lying.

HOMER

What?

THEO

I don't like being lied to, Theo.

HOMER

It wasn't a lie. It was a misunderstanding.

THEO

HOMER  
(Walks to board, erases the "truth race" score, and updates the total to "29")  
Maybe I should give you a zero for the truth race exercise after all.  
(Exits right)

THEO

Homer! Wait! You misunderstood!

(Theo and Tif exit, right. Lights down)

END OF ACT I

## ACT II

(Lights up on the same conference room, unchanged from the end of Act I. About fifteen minutes have passed. Richard, Lucy, Theo and Tif enter from right.)

RICHARD

Zero!

LUCY

I don't believe it!

RICHARD

And why did Homer say "ask Theo about it"?

THEO

I wasn't—

TIF

It's not his fault! Homer came on so strong...and he misunderstood Theo's reaction—

RICHARD

What do you mean...oh. Really? Well, maybe we could...

(Looks at camera, then whispering)

We could put this to our advantage.

THEO

(Whispering)

How?

RICHARD

Homer wouldn't want his new boyfriend to get laid off, would he?

TIF

(Loudly)

That's not going to work.

RICHARD

Shhh!

(Whispering)

Patricia is listening!

TIF

(Whispering)

Theo isn't really interested in Homer.

Can't you just pretend? RICHARD

Tif— THEO

Actually, he's interested in me. TIF

Tif! THEO

Who...Homer? RICHARD

No, Theo. TIF

But that's not...I mean you're... RICHARD

(To Theo)  
TIF  
Would you like to go to the Fetal Pigs concert with me?

You mean...but... RICHARD

I said I didn't like labels. THEO

You bastard! RICHARD  
(Loudly)

Shhh! TIF

Oh, Richard. Left for someone younger? It's such a shame when that happens, isn't it? LUCY

Lucy, please— THEO

LUCY

It hurts, but don't worry, you'll get over it.

RICHARD

You haven't.

TIF

And as for dinner beforehand...have you ever eaten at the Butterfly Square?

RICHARD

As for you, Theo, I hope you can still act.

THEO

What?

TIF

Ignore him. He's just upset. We've got so much to talk about!

RICHARD

Even if we get ten points on every remaining exercise, we're not going to hit 85. And since you messed this up for all of us, you are going to make it right.

TIF

He didn't mess it up. No one comes out of these workshops with a passing score.

LUCY

Where did you hear that?

THEO

Richard, you know that I'm not really gay.

RICHARD

I don't care what you are. Just pretend!

TIF

Office managers know all the gossip. Hey, Theo, do you want to know Mystery Boyfriend's name?

THEO

Sure, Tif. Richard, I'm not going to pretend to be attracted to Homer...ugh...just to get points.

TIF

Don't tell anyone...

RICHARD

You've been doing a good job so far!

(Tif whispers into Theo's ear)

LUCY

Richard, don't take your frustrations out on Theo. Just because you're all alone...

RICHARD

Do you really want to be an unemployed 50-something software developer?

LUCY

I'm only 45. And I've landed on my feet before. You're the one who turned 50 this year.

RICHARD

Do you think a few years makes a difference to a 30 year-old hiring manager?

THEO

(Loudly)

Homer!?!

RICHARD

Shhh! Damn right, Theo. Just string him along until—

TIF

Theo! You weren't supposed to tell!

THEO

But our...he...no, it can't be! Tif, are you absolutely sure Patricia is dating someone named Homer?

TIF

Yes.

LUCY

What? Homer?

RICHARD

You mean...the Mystery Boyfriend is Homer? "Our" Homer? Patricia is dating...him!?!

TIF

Well...maybe. I've never seen Patricia's Homer before.

THEO

But our Homer's gay! Very much so.

RICHARD

He's probably lying just to throw us off.

LUCY

Where did you come up with that sweet idea?

RICHARD

Recent experience.

TIF

This would be quite a coincidence.

RICHARD

I don't think it's a coincidence.

THEO

So...what? Patricia deliberately sent us to her sadistic boyfriend's team building seminar?

LUCY

We're not the first group in the company to be sent to one of these things.

RICHARD

Adirondack's a big company. She could drum up a lot of business. But why is it rigged?

LUCY

The lawsuit.

RICHARD

Of course.

THEO

What lawsuit?

RICHARD

A couple of years ago a group of laid-off employees won a big lawsuit against Adirondack for wrongful termination. Every employee in the layoff turned out to be Belgian, and the company couldn't convince the court that it was a coincidence. I bet the company would love to have a way to lay off employees that a court would see as objective.

TIF

So we're screwed.

THEO

I don't know. What would happen if this all became public?

RICHARD

That's a thought. Lots of bad press. I bet the company would pretend that Patricia did it all on her own. They'd probably fire her. And they wouldn't dare let us go; it would look too much like retribution.

THEO

Well, then, maybe we should encourage this fact to "get out".

LUCY

Wait, wait. This is all speculation. We don't even know this is the same Homer.

RICHARD

Then we should find out.

THEO

How? Just ask him?

RICHARD

If we can get Homer to admit that he's in a relationship with Patricia.

LUCY

No one would believe us.

THEO

I've got my voice recorder in the car. We could record him!

RICHARD

Go get it.

LUCY

Hold, on. I don't want Patricia to get fired. She's a friend.

RICHARD

Why? She sent you to her boyfriend's crazy team-building workshop. She enriches him and makes it easier to justify laying all of us off.

LUCY

Well...

THEO

Tif, what do you think?

TIF

I think should go get your recorder. Just in case.

(Homer enters from right)

THEO

Okay.

HOMER

All right, everyone. Ready to go?

RICHARD

Theo...

THEO

What? Oh.

(To Homer)

Can I speak with you?

(Theo walks Homer over to a corner)

I didn't lie, Homer.

HOMER

I didn't say—

THEO

Don't deny it.

HOMER

You lied about liking me!

THEO

I did not lie. You took things out of context.

HOMER

So you are attracted to me?

THEO

Sure.

HOMER

That's great! I—

(Homer's cell phone rings)

Hold on...

(Homer answers phone)

Hello, Patty. Yes...no sound? Oh really. Yes, I'll...I'll have them look into it.

Yes...but...what?...but you just said not to do that...I don't know...what?...

(Hangs up phone. To Theo...)

I hate the reception here. All right...



THEO  
No sound?

HOMER  
I turned it off.

THEO  
The sound is off?

HOMER  
I decided I didn't want Patty to listen in on you and me. I'd like our conversations to remain private. Anyway, you were talking about how much you liked me...

THEO  
Homer...look, I'm not going to like you if you cause us to lose our jobs. So just lay off a bit, keep it professional, and let's see what happens.

HOMER  
All right.

THEO  
So, on that last exercise...

HOMER  
I'll give you two points.

THEO  
Come on, Homer. We deserved ten for that.

HOMER  
Well...three.

THEO  
Nine?

HOMER  
Four.

THEO  
Come on. We deserve at least seven.

HOMER  
Seven. And that's it.

THEO  
I can live with seven points.

HOMER

But you have to go out with me tonight.

THEO

What?

HOMER

No pressure. Just coffee.

(Homer's cell phone rings)

Argh!

(Homer answers phone)

Yes, Patty...what is it?...what?...But you just said that we should...I always do that...I know...I know how to do my job...what?...I can't hear you...

(Homer hangs phone up)

You know, I think my phone's battery is going to die right now.

(Turns off cell phone)

Anyway. Tonight?

THEO

Well, I have...oh all right. Tonight.

HOMER

Great!

(Homer and Theo rejoin the group)

HOMER

All right, everyone. We've cleared that up. You're going to get five points after all.

(Homer updates the "truth race" score to "7", and the total to "36")

RICHARD

Making our total...

HOMER

36.

RICHARD

So we need what...49 points to reach 85? And we have five exercises left? It's going to be close.

HOMER

Don't worry, Richard! 85 was a very aggressive goal. There's no shame in being a few points short. I'm sure Patricia won't hold it against you.

THEO  
I'll be back in a minute.

HOMER  
(To Theo)  
Where are you going?

THEO  
I just need to...get something.

HOMER  
No, don't go anywhere! We're about to start.

THEO  
But I...

HOMER  
We don't want to hold everyone else up. Come on, Theo. The next exercise is really fun. It's called "Abstract Concept". Now, everyone have a seat.

(Everyone except Homer sits)

Oh. Wait a minute. No, I need you all standing for this one.

(Everyone stands)

I am going to ask one of you to leave the room, and then I will give an abstract concept to the remaining three. They will assume a pose that represents this concept. Once they're set, I'll bring the remaining person back in, and he, or she, will need to guess the abstract concept. You all get three chances to guess the concept. Everyone understand?

(Murmurs of assent)

THEO  
I volunteer to wait in the hallway.

HOMER  
Actually, let's have Tif wait outside.

THEO  
Oh.

(Tif turns to exit)

Oh, wait! Tif!

(Theo takes keys out of pocket)

If I'm going to be doing something physical, I don't want to be weighed down by these. Can you hold them for me?

TIF  
Sure.

THEO

I would leave them on the floor, but I don't want them to get lost. I've got my car key on there! I wouldn't want to lose it.

TIF

It's okay, Theo. I...oh, and you have all your stuff in your car!

THEO

That's right! Mostly in the trunk, actually. Thanks Tif.

(Tif exits right)

HOMER

Guys, your abstract concept is "love".

RICHARD

Nice choice.

HOMER

Thanks. I thought so.

THEO

Okay. Love. Well, everyone, how do we represent love? I've got an idea.

RICHARD

What the hell do you know about love?

LUCY

Richard—

RICHARD  
(To Lucy)

Or you.

LUCY

Excuse me? I never stopped...you're the one who betrayed me!

RICHARD

Lucky thing I left you. Who knows what you would have done.

LUCY

Treat me well and I'll treat you well. But don't treat me well and—

RICHARD

And you'll think up the most elaborate revenge fantasy—

THEO

Romeo and Juliet!

RICHARD

Good idea, Theo. You can be what's-his-name who dies in Act III. Lucy...oh, wait, you're far too old to play Juliet.

LUCY

True. Though Richard, I think you'd do a fine job as Romeo. You've been playing the role of a teenage boy for months now.

THEO

Or how about Cupid? You know, I could be Cupid shooting an arrow into the heart of...Lucy?

RICHARD

You'd better use a crossbow.

THEO

Why don't I pose like this...

(Theo assumes a "pulling the bow" position)

LUCY

Fine. Richard, if you're finished whining, why don't you be the one that's shot. Clutch at your heart. And I'll...just stand here, I guess.

HOMER

Oh! That's good. I'll go get Tif.

(Moves to door)

Tif! Come back!

(Tif reenters)

What do you think?

TIF

I don't know. Murder?

RICHARD

What?

TIF

Richard looks like he's just been shot. Theo, are you holding a rifle?

RICHARD

Good guess.

THEO

No, it's—

HOMER

No no no! You'll ruin it! Okay, you all get two more chances. Tif, please wait out in the hall.

TIF

(Exiting right)

Fine.

RICHARD

So what else do you suggest, Mr. Love Expert?

THEO

A group hug?

RICHARD

A mother and son?

LUCY

Let's spell it out.

RICHARD

Spell it? You mean...

LUCY

With our arms. I'll be the letter "L". Richard, you be the "O". Theo, the...oh, wait a minute. There are only three of us.

RICHARD

So much for that idea.

LUCY

I don't hear you suggesting anything.

THEO

We'll leave off the "E". It'll be fine.

RICHARD

Well...all right. I'm an "O", I guess.

THEO

I'll be a "V".

RICHARD

So Theo, stand on my left. Lucy, I guess you're the "L".

(Lucy and Theo get into position. Theo is on Richard's left, Lucy on Richard's right).

HOMER

Are you all ready?

THEO

(Makes himself in a shape of a "V").

Like this?

(Richard and Lucy make themselves into the shape of an "O" and "L", respectively)

LUCY

Yes, I think we are.

HOMER

Great!

(Calling offstage)

Tif! Tif?

(Walks offstage, still calling)

Tif?

(To Theo, Lucy, Richard)

Hold on a minute

(Walks offstage, still calling to Tif)

Where'd you go?

LUCY

She's gone?

RICHARD

Great. So can we put our arms down?

LUCY

No, no! I think we should just keep them up.

THEO

Yeah. We wouldn't want Homer to dock us for being insufficiently persistent.

(Pause)

LUCY

So, where do you think she went?

THEO  
Getting the voice recorder out of my car?

RICHARD  
(Indicates camera)  
Theo!

THEO  
The sound is off.

RICHARD  
Really? Thank God for that.  
(Pause)  
I wish she'd hurry. My arms are getting tired.

LUCY  
No stamina, Richard?

THEO  
Please don't start up again.

RICHARD  
Theo, I don't need help from you.

THEO  
(Puts arms down)  
Well I'm going to put my arms down.  
(Richard and Lucy put their arms down)

LUCY  
So how do we get Homer to admit his relationship?

THEO  
I'm going to ask him.

RICHARD  
That won't work.

THEO  
Well, I'll give it a try. Oh, arms up. I hear them!

(Theo, Richard and Lucy resume their positions.  
Homer reenters with Tif)

HOMER  
Tif, what do you think?



TIF

What? Oh, wow! It's sort of like that dance where you spell out the letters...No! Wait! Not, that. I know. It's obvious! Yoga!

LUCY

Oh...

(Lucy, Richard, Theo relax)

HOMER

Sorry, Tif. That's not it.

TIF

Back out in the corridor?

HOMER

Yeah.

TIF

Okay. Oh! Look at that. I've been leaving my purse in here.

(Tif picks up purse)

I should keep this with me.

(Tif exits)

HOMER

May I make a suggestion? Try portraying rapturous love.

LUCY

What does that mean?

HOMER

I'll show you. Richard, Lucy, stand over here.

(Beat)

I want you to look at each other like you're madly in love.

RICHARD

I can manage "mad".

(Richard and Lucy face each other without much emotion)

LUCY

You should. You've been delusional about your relationship with Tif since it started.

RICHARD

It was good while it lasted. Here we go, Homer.

HOMER

(To Richard)

Oh come on. You're madly in love. Smile!

(Beat)

Bigger!

(Beat)

Okay, now to get to rapturous, go even bigger!

(Beat)

I guess that will do.

THEO

That's what being in love is like? For you, I mean.

HOMER

Richard, drop to one knee...Good. Now clutch your hands to your heart...Great! Now, Lucy, act...really surprised...Yes, but put your arms up more...higher...Lucy?

LUCY

What?

HOMER

Do you have arthritis or something?

LUCY

What?! Of course not!

(Puts arms straight up)

RICHARD

It's all right, Lucy. Don't overexert yourself.

LUCY

Fine one to talk. You're the one sweating.

RICHARD

At least I have full range of motion.

LUCY

I doubt Tif would agree.

RICHARD

She would. I always had to hold myself back with you.

LUCY

Actually, dear, I was the one holding back.

RICHARD

I'm talking physically, not emotionally.

LUCY

The man who refuses to say why he left me thinks I can't express myself.

RICHARD

I explained it!

LUCY

Vague excuses about how, because we work in the same office—

RICHARD

I was perfectly clear in my reasoning.

THEO

Uh, guys—

LUCY

Shut up, Theo.

(To Richard)

And then two weeks later you shack up with the secretary. How stereotypical is that?

RICHARD

After twenty-seven years of hell with Margaret, I deserved it! I got married at nineteen, for crying out loud!

LUCY

Finally got to act like a teenager, three decades too late?

RICHARD

It's never too late to live a little.

LUCY

But you couldn't keep up with her! Poor boy.

RICHARD

I never left her wanting.

LUCY

With the help of your pills?

RICHARD

If I have to choose between a woman that vigorous, and one that is...not, which should I choose?

LUCY

The one who can actually understand you.

RICHARD

It was never about me. You're the one afraid of turning into a cat lady.

LUCY

A what?

RICHARD

Sitting at home. Alone. Thirty years from now, with twenty-seven cats.

LUCY

I've only got one cat!

RICHARD

For now. But you know that's what's going to happen if you stay single.

LUCY

Just because I want to share my life with you—

RICHARD

Desperation shows, Lucy.

LUCY

Dating you is what you'd call desperation?

RICHARD

Obsessing about marriage is what I'd call desperation.

LUCY

Obsessing? We dated for three years before I even brought it up! That's long enough!

RICHARD

So I have to stick to some timetable to prove I love you?!

LUCY

Well, how long am I supposed to wait?

RICHARD

Maybe we should get married right now, if you're in such a rush.

LUCY

Don't make me laugh! You're a complete coward when it comes to commitment!

RICHARD

If you're so brave, how about tonight? We can be in Nevada in six hours.

LUCY

Fine!

RICHARD

Fine!

(Beat)

LUCY

Richard, did you just...?

RICHARD

Oh. I did. Didn't I.

LUCY

We should...uh...talk later.

RICHARD

You're right. Maybe after the—

LUCY

Yes, after. So, Homer, arms up?

(Lucy puts arms straight up)

RICHARD

And I was on one knee, with my hands over my heart. Right?

HOMER

That's right guys. Now...uh...Theo, I need you to act just like Richard—

THEO

I don't think I could.

HOMER

No, I mean clutch your hand over your heart and smile.

THEO

Like this?

HOMER

Much bigger smile!...Open your mouth more...I want to see your tonsils...great! Clutch your hands together in front of you...right, and stare in this direction. I'll stand right here so you're looking at me. Perfect. You're a natural, Theo.

THEO

Thanks.

HOMER

Tif? Tif! Come back in!

(Tif reenters with purse (the voice recorder is inside))

TIF

Oh, wow...are you all...wait, I need to guess. This is...um.

(Lucy mouths "love"; Homer doesn't see her)

Lump?

(Lucy mouths "love" again)

Love! I meant to say love! Of course! It's so obvious.

HOMER

Of course it is! Great job, everyone. You can relax now. Now, as for points, I think...eight. Now hold on a moment, I need to get something for the next exercise.

(Homer updates whiteboard with point score (8 points, total is 44) moves right to get something out of his bag of supplies. Richard, Theo, Tif and Lucy huddle for a quick conference)

TIF

What happened in here? I heard shouting.

RICHARD

We'll talk about it later. Did you get the voice recorder?

TIF

Yeah. It's in my purse. Homer almost caught me; I had to hide it in the hall!

THEO

Okay. Good. Just press the red button to start recording.

TIF

And the blue button to play back.

(Beat)

Patricia has one of these, too.

(Homer rejoins the group holding an overhead projector and three pens. Homer puts the projector on a table, center)

HOMER

Ready for the next exercise?

LUCY

44 points. That means we're not going to reach 85.

HOMER

Excuse me?

LUCY

Our goal. We're not going to reach it.

TIF

That's right. If we don't get 85, we'll all be fired.

RICHARD

No, no. Just because we don't get 85 doesn't mean we'll automatically be fired. I'm sure that something will come up to convince the company.

THEO

Patricia, especially.

RICHARD

Yes, Patricia, especially, that the point score doesn't matter.

LUCY

Of course. I'm sure you're right.

TIF

You mean about the workshop and how—

RICHARD

How hard we all tried! Yes, exactly, Tif.

HOMER

Fired? Is that what you think? Are you saying you were only participating because you were afraid of losing your job, Lucy? Tif?

LUCY

No! Not at all.

TIF

No.

HOMER

I wouldn't want anyone here who was here just because their company told them to be.

LUCY

Of course not.

HOMER

I mean, everyone else who has ever participated in a Resource Maximizers workshop has attended solely because of the joy that results in having an effective team.

LUCY

I'm sure that's true.

HOMER

But are you ready for the joy, Lucy?

LUCY

Yes?

HOMER

Let me hear you say it.

LUCY

I am ready...for the joy.

HOMER

That's great! Everyone now.

LUCY, TIF, RICHARD, THEO

I am ready for the joy.

HOMER

I love Resource Maximizers!

LUCY, TIF, RICHARD, THEO

I love Resource Maximizers.

HOMER

I love Homer!

LUCY, TIF, RICHARD, THEO

I love Homer.



HOMER

I love you too, guys! Now it's time for "Team Tattoo"! This is a great bonding experience.

RICHARD

Tattoos?

HOMER

Yeah! You're going to come together and design a tattoo that represents your team.

TIF

I am not getting a tattoo.

THEO

Oh I don't know. We could all get "Adirondack System Solutions" put on our foreheads! Wouldn't that be fun?

HOMER

Oh, guys, that's a really great idea, but you don't actually get tattooed. See, you all get together and draw a tattoo on that represents your team.

RICHARD

On paper.

HOMER

On this projector, actually. So I can see what you're doing.

TIF

I guess—

HOMER

Oh, wait! I almost forgot!

(Runs back to bag of supplies, rummages a bit)

Here we go...

(Homer pulls out three pairs of handcuffs and runs back to the group)

Handcuffs!

THEO

What?

HOMER

Handcuffs! You are all handcuffed together! So you have to work as a team!

(Homer handcuffs Tif's right wrist to Theo's left wrist)

That's...strange.  
RICHARD

Is it?  
LUCY

Well, in this context.  
RICHARD

In some other context, though...  
LUCY

Hush.  
RICHARD

(Homer handcuffs Richard's right wrist to Lucy's left)

And...  
HOMER

(Homer handcuffs Richard's left wrist to Theo's right)

There! Now here are some pens.

(Gives one pen each to Tif, Lucy and Theo. Homer indicates the projector)

And here's where you'll draw.

Homer?  
THEO

Huh?  
HOMER

I'd really prefer not to be handcuffed.  
THEO

But it's part of the process.  
HOMER

Yes, I'm sure it is, but I'd really, really like it if you took this handcuff off right now.  
THEO

HOMER  
It needs to stay on.

THEO  
Homer!

TIF  
Theo, what is it?

RICHARD  
Yes, Theo. What's wrong? I want to know.

THEO  
Nothing. It's just...nothing.

RICHARD  
Is this uncomfortable for you? I know how you feel. I hate being in an uncomfortable position.

LUCY  
We need one more pen, Homer.

HOMER  
Aha! I gave you three pens deliberately. To foster cooperation!

RICHARD  
How innovative. Well. Any ideas?

THEO  
Why don't we just write the initials of the company here...  
(Writes A.S.S. across the top)  
There. All done! Homer...

RICHARD  
Oh, no. That's not nearly enough.

THEO  
It's fine.

RICHARD  
We can't just have that as our tattoo. I think...hmmm...I don't know. Let's take some time to think about this.

LUCY  
I suppose we could have the initials of the Advanced Project Group as well.

Good idea.

RICHARD

All right, I'll write them below.

THEO

No hold, on...

RICHARD  
(Raises left arm, thus lifting Theo's right)

Stop that.

THEO

Let's just wait a minute and think through how to write them.

RICHARD

Oh for God's sake, let's just do this...

TIF  
(Tif writes a "P" and "G" under the "A")

Perfect!

THEO

Oh no.

RICHARD  
(Puts arm down)

What now?

THEO

It's unbalanced.

RICHARD

It's fine.

THEO

Well, it is a little...uh, never mind. It looks fine.

LUCY

I agree with Richard. We can't have an unbalanced tattoo.

HOMER

All right. How about a...I don't know...

LUCY

A computer!

TIF

Richard

Hmmm....

RICHARD

Richard...

LUCY

Perhaps we should brainstorm a little while.

RICHARD

The computer is fine.

LUCY

I don't know. A computer is so...generic, it...

RICHARD

Are you all right, Theo?

LUCY

I'm fine.

THEO

Are you sure?

LUCY

Let's just get this over with, all right?

THEO

Good idea. Richard?

LUCY

But Lucy—

RICHARD

We should wrap this up.

LUCY

But...all right. Sure. Let's draw a computer. Someone give me a pen.

RICHARD

Here.

THEO

(Theo gives his pen to Richard)

RICHARD

Thank you.

(Richard draws a computer below the “SS” and to right of the “PG”)

TIF

What’s that?

RICHARD

A computer.

TIF

It’s just a box with a triangle sticking out of the side.

RICHARD

The universal symbol for a computer.

TIF

Maybe when you were a child—

RICHARD

The triangle is the keyboard.

LUCY

I think it's charming.

TIF

Well, it needs a power cable coming out the back.

(Tif draws a power cable coming out of the back of the computer)

LUCY

Of course. And a mouse cable.

(Draws a squiggly line)

TIF

And a network cable. And a printer cable.

(Tif draws a couple of squiggly lines)

THEO

That's enough cables already!

TIF

Theo, you're sweating. Are you sure you're all right?

THEO

I'm fine. Homer...we're done!

RICHARD

I disagree. It needs more, don't you think, Theo?

THEO

I think it's great the way it is.

RICHARD

Homer, what do you think?

HOMER

Could you work something in about...the future?

THEO

The future?

HOMER

Sure. You work with technology. "Advanced Projects." That sounds like something that would affect the future.

THEO

Okay...How about an arrow? Richard, give me your pen.

RICHARD

Let's talk about what you're thinking, first.

TIF

I'll draw it.

(Draws an arrow, pointing left, above the "A.S.S.")

There.

RICHARD

Tif. Wonderful.

LUCY

That's arrow is pointing towards the past, dear.

TIF

Fine. I'll draw another one.

(Tif draws an arrow pointing right at the bottom of the drawing).

RICHARD

Great. Now it looks like we don't know where we're going.

THEO

I know the feeling. Homer we're done. Really.

RICHARD

I don't know. Maybe there's more we could—

LUCY

Richard.

RICHARD

Yes?

LUCY

We're done.

RICHARD

All right. We're done, Homer.

HOMER

Good job guys. With the little computer and everything.

THEO

Thanks. Can we—

HOMER

And the arrows. That's a great representation of time. You know, Theo, I really like abstract art.

THEO

Great! Now...

HOMER

I'm going to give you a ten.

(Homer shuts off projector and starts moving out of the way)

THEO

Homer! Handcuffs!



Oh, of course.

HOMER  
(Homer unlocks handcuff linking Theo and Richard)

I'll put this away and we can move on.

(Homer crosses to whiteboard and updates it; total is now 52)

THEO  
What about the other one?

HOMER  
You keep that on for the next exercise.

THEO  
Uh...I guess I can deal with just one...

TIF  
(Nudges Theo, then whispers)  
You okay?

THEO  
Yeah.

TIF  
Well, now's your chance!

THEO  
What? Oh...all right.  
(Theo and Tif cross to Homer.)  
Homer! I was wondering...

HOMER  
Yes?

THEO  
Are you seeing anyone? And, where is Tif's purse?

TIF  
Where's my purse?

HOMER  
What?

THEO

You should keep your purse close by. This hotel, it's...full of thieves.

(Tif and Theo cross to Tif's purse)

TIF

Theo, I don't think—

THEO

(Whispering, to Tif)

Voice recorder!

TIF

(Loudly)

Ah. Yes. Full of thieves. Purse snatchers.

(Tif grabs purse. Theo and Tif cross back to Homer)

THEO

Can't be too careful.

TIF

No.

THEO

(To Homer. Tif fumbles to turn on the voice recorder in her purse)

Anyway, Homer seeing anyone?

HOMER

No.

THEO

Oh.

(Focus switches to Lucy and Richard)

RICHARD

I'm sorry about what I said before.

LUCY

What did you say?

RICHARD

About you turning into a cat lady.

Oh, that. Never mind.

LUCY

You've never been desperate.

RICHARD

No, no. It's fine. I'm the one who should apologize for all the cracks about your stamina.

LUCY

Well, I am getting older.

RICHARD

That's all right. I rather like...experience.

LUCY

You know...so do I.

RICHARD

Richard?

LUCY

Yes?

RICHARD

Do you still have those pills?

LUCY

Yeah...

RICHARD

Good.

LUCY

(Focus switches back to Homer, Tif and Theo.  
Homer crosses to center. Tif and Theo follow.)

HOMER  
(To Lucy and Richard)

Come on, guys.

TIF

Think, Homer: are you sure you're not dating anyone?

HOMER

Yes, I'm sure!

THEO

I'm surprised. I would have thought...I mean, a handsome man like yourself.

HOMER

Ah. I see. I knew you were interested Theo.

THEO

What?

HOMER

I'm all yours.

THEO

Great. Just great.

HOMER

Richard? Lucy?

(Richard and Lucy rejoin Homer)

RICHARD

Sorry. I got distracted.

HOMER

No problem. Next game everyone: Twenty Questions! You get to ask me twenty yes/no questions, and I have to tell you the truth.

THEO

Why do we have to wear handcuffs to play twenty questions?

HOMER

I've hidden a key to the handcuffs somewhere. If you can find the key, you can take the handcuffs off. Otherwise, you have to wear them for the rest of the day. Now remember, the questions have to be yes/no. Any questions?

THEO

Who thinks up this stuff?

HOMER

I'm sorry, that's not a yes/no question. You have nineteen questions left.

THEO

What?

HOMER

That's also not a yes/no question. You have eighteen questions left.

TIF

I don't understand what's going on.

HOMER

If you ask me a non-yes/no question, you forfeit that question.

THEO

You didn't say that!

HOMER

Didn't I? Oh, sorry.

THEO

So we have twenty questions?

HOMER

No. Seventeen questions left.

TIF

I'm confused. How did we get to seventeen questions?

HOMER

That's not a yes/no question. Sixteen left.

THEO

You mean you're not going to give us credit for the first one?

HOMER

No. Fifteen questions left.

THEO

What's the point of docking us for trying to figure out what's going on...is a question I would ask if I were going to ask a question. But I'm not.

(Beat)

Would anyone else like to try?

HOMER

Was that directed towards me?

THEO

No!

RICHARD

Hold, on everyone. Let's think this through. Okay. Homer, um...is the key in this room?

Yes. HOMER

Is the key in your bag? TIF

Nope. Thirteen left. HOMER

Is the key in the projector? RICHARD

No. HOMER

Is the key visible? LUCY

Uh-uh. HOMER

Is the key on your person? THEO

No. Only ten left. HOMER

Do you know what this reminds me of? THEO

No. Nine left. HOMER

That time that Patricia lost her car keys. We all had to search the office. What a klutz. THEO

I don't remember— LUCY

Of course you don't. Patricia loses things so often that, well...we're always having to look for her stuff. You know what I mean, Homer? THEO

What? HOMER

THEO

Have you ever been stuck with anyone who is that disorganized? Always losing things. God, that's aggravating, don't you think?

TIF

Patricia isn't really that disorganized.

HOMER

I'm sure she's not.

THEO

Don't cover for her, Tif. You know how she gets. And when she loses something, well, she's always whining and complaining. She really is a difficult woman to work for.

RICHARD

Even to be with! Yes, she's very annoying.

LUCY

Richard!

HOMER

Let's get back to the exercise.

THEO

Of course. But wow, is she annoying.

HOMER

Theo!

THEO

Sorry. Now, where was I?

LUCY

So, where were her keys, anyway?

THEO

What?

LUCY

Patricia's keys, in this great key search you were talking about. I'm sure I would remember if—

THEO

Where were they? I don't, I mean, I think they were...um...in her purse, all along.

HOMER

And she didn't realize?

THEO

No. Funny isn't it? I guess that happens. I don't suppose you hid the handcuff key in someone's purse?

HOMER

Oh, uh...yes. Seven questions left.

RICHARD

What?

LUCY

You hid it in...whose purse?

HOMER

That's not a yes/no question, so...

LUCY

Yes yes. Is it in mine?

HOMER

No.

TIF

Mine?

HOMER

Very good, Tif.

(Tif Starts digging in purse)

I'll give you eight points for that.

(Homer crosses to whiteboard and updates it; total is now 60)

TIF

Where is it?

HOMER

It's small. Maybe if you dumped out the contents...

TIF

No! I mean...it's such a mess...I would never...hmmm.... Ah! Found it!

(Tif unlocks the handcuff holding her to Theo)



THEO  
Thank you!

TIF  
(Giving key to Richard)  
Here, I'll let you...

RICHARD  
(Takes key and frees himself and Lucy)  
Thanks.

HOMER  
(Takes handcuffs from Tif)  
I'll take that. Would you believe that only half of Resource Maximizers participants manage to free themselves?

LUCY  
Yes.

RICHARD  
I hadn't really given it any thought. Here.  
(Gives handcuffs to Homer)

HOMER  
I'll be back in a minute.  
(Homer moves to his bag of supplies)

LUCY  
Theo, what was all that about?

THEO  
My little monologue?

LUCY  
Patricia isn't disorganized.

THEO  
Of course not. I made it all up.

RICHARD  
You're trying to provoke him.

THEO  
Exactly!

LUCY

Interesting idea. Hmmm...

TIF

Shhh! Camera.

THEO

It's all right. Homer turned off the sound. To get close to me.

TIF

Really?

THEO

He kept getting calls from Patricia on his cell telling him to "fix" it. Until he turned his phone off as well.

LUCY

I think you've got the right idea, but you should go farther.

THEO

What does that mean?

RICHARD

You should know.

(To Lucy)

This is a talent you've been honing for, what, the last six months?

LUCY

Damn right. Now do try to keep up. We start by planting a seed.

(Loudly)

It's not that I mind Patricia having an active sex life, but why do I have to hear about it all the time?

THEO

Ah. Yeah. That is annoying. Isn't it?

LUCY

I mean really, that sort of thing is best left outside of the office, don't you think?

RICHARD

I completely agree.

HOMER

(Walks up with a stack of Homer stickers)

What's this about Patricia?

LUCY

Oh, nothing. Just office gossip.

HOMER

Okay. But—

LUCY

So, are you ready to do the next exercise? What's that you've got?

HOMER

Uh, yeah. Sure. All right everyone, have a seat.

(Everyone except Homer sits)

For the second to last exercise, we now we need to ask ourselves...what have we learned today?

TIF

That you have a dead mouse in your car?

HOMER

(Laughs)

That's so good! Yeah, I do. Okay, here you go.

(Takes a Homer sticker and puts it on Tif).

TIF

Wha—?

HOMER

This exercise is called "Sticky Lessons." It's what has stuck with you from this workshop.

TIF

Why did you put this on me?

HOMER

So that the rest of the team can share in what you have learned.

LUCY

(Looks at sticker on Tif)

What does that say... "I love Homer"?!

RICHARD

It has your face on it.

HOMER

(Passes out stickers)

Yeah! It's a great way to show appreciation for the RM process, don't you think?

THEO

They're sort of big.

HOMER

As each of you share something you have learned, take a sticker and stick it to yourself. Who's next?

(More silence)

In order to get ten points everyone needs to give at least three things they've learned.

LUCY

Oh, well, um...I have learned...that...these workshops can be fun! Are fun.

RICHARD

Oh, yes, I've learned that too.

HOMER

Thank you, Richard, but everyone should provide their own lessons. Lucy, your sticker.

(Lucy sticks a sticker on herself. The rest also attach stickers to themselves as appropriate)

THEO

All right. I have learned that...we can function as a team.

RICHARD

I've learned that Lucy likes walks on the beach.

TIF

And I've learned that Theo likes the Fetal Pigs.

LUCY

And I've learned that Richard doesn't like Italian food.

RICHARD

I should have told you before.

LUCY

It's all right. You like French, though. Right?

RICHARD

Sure.

LUCY

Have you heard about that new little bistro downtown?

RICHARD  
Oh, the one with the traditional bakery on-site?!

LUCY  
Best bread in the city. Or so I hear.

RICHARD  
You want to find out if it's true?

HOMER  
Guys.

LUCY  
What? Oh. Sorry. Ummm...

HOMER  
How about you, Theo. What have you learned?

THEO  
Uh, well...

HOMER  
What have you learned about me, in particular?

THEO  
Uh...uh...that you're free Saturday night?

HOMER  
I was free. Past tense. But yes. Your sticker.

THEO  
Uh...

HOMER  
Would you like me to suggest a place to put it?

THEO  
I can handle it. Thanks.

TIF  
And I've learned how much of a slut Patricia is!

HOMER  
What?!

LUCY

Yes. That's right. And I've learned that...you shouldn't have slept with her, Theo.

HOMER

Theo? Wait a minute. You slept with Patt...with your manager?

THEO

Uh...yeah. I did do that, didn't I? I don't know what I was thinking.

LUCY

It's my fault. I encouraged him. I got the crazy idea that it would be good for his career. That he could sleep his way into middle management.

THEO

That's right. I'm so ashamed. I feel so...used. Have you ever felt like that, Homer?

HOMER

No.

THEO

Good. I hope you never do.

RICHARD

I do.

HOMER

You do?

RICHARD

Yes. I've learned...God, this workshop has been so helpful. I learned that Patricia cannot be trusted. You see...

TIF

Be brave, Richard.

RICHARD

I also tried to sleep my way into...into...but Patricia just used me, and then threw me away.

HOMER

I'm sure that—

RICHARD

Thank you, Homer. Thank you so very much for helping me to see clearly exactly what Patricia is.

HOMER

You're welcome. But I know Patricia and this seems—

LUCY

But how well do you know her?

HOMER

Actually I...well...

LUCY

You spoke with her on the phone, but you don't really know her. Do you?

HOMER

Well...I guess not.

LUCY

No. You don't. Homer...everyone. I also have a confession.

THEO

You didn't—?

LUCY

Oh, no. Not that. It's just...I've known Patricia. For so long. I should have known about her...appetite. I should have warned all of you.

TIF

It's all right, Lucy. I also knew. I should have told you, Richard. And Theo...I'm so sorry.

THEO

It's all right.

RICHARD

Don't blame yourself, Tif.

THEO

Oh. I seem to have lost track of my stickers.

HOMER

It's fine.

THEO

But I don't—

HOMER

It's fine. Ten points. Next.

(Collects unused stickers from group. Moves to supply bag to put them away. Also, updates the whiteboard: total is now 70)

No, no, don't take your stickers off!

LUCY

I hope we didn't upset you with all of our confessions.

HOMER

No, not at all.

TIF

Not even a little bit?

HOMER

Well, I'll admit that I'm surprised by everything you said about Patricia. But I know how to take our mind off of office politics. I don't usually do this, but I think you all need something special to end the day. It's called "The Mission Dance." The objective is simple: create a mission statement for your team, set to interpretive dance. All right, everyone stand.

(Everyone stands)

Okay, so first...what does your group do, exactly?

THEO

We develop software.

LUCY

We're sort of a future looking group. Advanced research and development.

HOMER

Aha! The future! I knew it. Now, the name your company: "Adirondack"...

TIF

The founder of the company was from upstate New York.

RICHARD

Really?

TIF

Yup.

RICHARD

Huh. I never knew that's where the name came from.

HOMER

"Adirondack" is also a type of chair, right?



RICHARD

I suppose.

THEO

Homer, about Patricia—

HOMER

No no no! No more talk about Patricia. Line up, everyone!

(Theo, Tif, Richard and Lucy line up, in that order,  
from right to left)

HOMER

Theo, you can represent "Adirondack" by sitting on the floor. Lucy...no, Tif, you can show "Systems" by waving your purse around.

TIF

My purse?

HOMER

Your purse is a collection of items, thus a system.

TIF

Well, I—

LUCY

So we're going to act out...the name of the company?

HOMER

Exactly! Richard, Lucy, when we say "Solutions," give a big thumbs up. Like you just figured out the solution to something. Okay, so let's try it: Adirondack

(Theo sits on the ground)

System

(Tif waves her purse around)

Solutions

(Richard and Lucy give a thumbs up)

Yeah! Now, "Advanced Project Group", hmmm...

(Theo gets up)

RICHARD

We're going to act that out as well?

HOMER

Of course!

TIF

We could spell out the initials.

HOMER

(Each forms a letter as Homer directs them)

That's brilliant! Theo, you're "A", Tif "P" and Richard "G". And Lucy, raise your arms straight up, like an exclamation point...Great!

LUCY

How very creative. That's it?

HOMER

Oh, no. We need to sing, and dance, about your team's goals and aspirations.

RICHARD

You want us to dance about...the future?

HOMER

Exactly!

LUCY

Well, I suppose could—

HOMER

I know: "Dealing with the past, Looking to the future." You had arrows on your team's tattoo pointing both ways, after all.

THEO

Well, that was a...oh, sure, Homer. That sounds good.

HOMER

And what do you do?

LUCY

We—

HOMER

You, uh...you "design the future." Yeah!

LUCY

Why don't I just come back in five minutes when you're finished.

HOMER

And where is your group going?

RICHARD  
The hotel bar?

LUCY  
Good idea.

HOMER  
"Into the future!"

RICHARD  
But everyone goes into the future—

HOMER  
But that's where you're going as a team!

TIF  
We work with computers.

HOMER  
Good point, Tif! You work with computers. Until the future comes!

THEO  
I think we'll keep on working with computers even after the future comes.

LUCY  
Whenever that is.

HOMER  
Okay, I think I've got something here. You'll start off with  
Adirondack System Solutions  
Advanced Project Group  
Do what we decided with those lines.

LUCY  
"We" decided?

HOMER  
And then just go from there. Ready, everyone?

RICHARD  
Sure.

HOMER  
Okay, here we go:  
Adirondack System Solutions

EVERYONE  
Adirondack System Solutions

HOMER  
Advanced Project Group

EVERYONE  
Advanced Project Group

(Homer acts out the rest of the lines. The rest follow  
as best they can)

HOMER  
Dealing with the past,  
Looking to the future.

EVERYONE  
Dealing with the past,  
Looking to the future.

HOMER  
Adirondack System Solutions,  
Advanced Project Group

EVERYONE  
(Richard, Lucy, Tif, Theo act out these phrases as  
before)  
Adirondack System Solutions,  
Advanced Project Group.

HOMER  
What do we do?  
Design the future.

EVERYONE  
What do we do?  
Design the future.

HOMER  
Where are we going?  
Into the future!

EVERYONE  
Where are we going?  
Into the future!

HOMER

Adirondack System Solutions,  
Advanced Project Group.

EVERYONE  
(Richard, Lucy, Tif, Theo act out these phrases as  
before)

Adirondack System Solutions,  
Advanced Project Group.

HOMER

Boldly on we go!  
Never stopping. Never resting.

EVERYONE

Boldly on we go!  
Never stopping. Never resting.

HOMER

Working with computers.  
Until the future comes.

EVERYONE

Working with computers.  
Until the future comes.

HOMER

Adirondack System Solutions,  
Advanced Project Group.

EVERYONE  
(Richard, Lucy, Tif, Theo act out these phrases as  
before)

Adirondack System Solutions,  
Advanced Project Group.

TIF

Hold on everyone!

(Takes cell phone out of purse and answers it)

Hello?

HOMER

Tif! Not now.

RICHARD  
(Winded)  
Now is just fine, actually.

TIF  
Oh my God!

THEO  
What?

TIF  
That's horrible! Is Patricia all right?  
(Pause)  
A coma?

HOMER  
What's going on?

TIF  
I see. Oh! Thank you.  
(Tif hangs up)

HOMER  
What's wrong?

TIF  
It's Patricia. Nothing you need to worry about.

LUCY  
What happened?

TIF  
She got into an auto accident. She's in a coma.

HOMER  
What?

TIF  
They said something about her trying to call someone on her cell phone.

HOMER  
Oh my God!  
(Homer pulls out cell phone and turns it on)  
When did this happen?!?



RICHARD

Ah! Um...

THEO

Come on, everyone...hooray!

RICHARD, LUCY, TIF, THEO

Hooray!

HOMER

Stop this! This is horrible! She's your manager.

TIF

Not for much longer.

THEO

Come on, everyone, follow after me:

Adirondack System Solutions  
Advanced Project Group.

RICHARD, LUCY, TIF, THEO

Adirondack System Solutions  
Advanced Project Group.

(Homer dials his cell phone)

THEO

Heard the news?  
Pat got smashed.  
As for us?  
It's a blast.

HOMER

Theo!

RICHARD, LUCY, TIF, THEO

Heard the news?  
Pat got smashed.  
As for us?  
It's a blast.

HOMER

Shut up! Shut up! Damn...



TIF

How's she doing?  
Massive bleeding!  
What's her status?  
Organ failure!

HOMER

Seventeen messages?!?

RICHARD, LUCY, TIF, THEO

How's she doing?  
Massive bleeding!  
What's her status?  
Organ failure!

HOMER

Be quiet!

(Homer tries in vain to listen to his messages)

LUCY

Do you think we'll miss her?  
Do you think we'll cry?

HOMER

Tif, what hospital...

RICHARD

Or will we sneak into her room,  
Pull the plug and say "bye bye!"?

HOMER

Richard! Damn you. Tif, where is she?

RICHARD, LUCY, TIF, THEO

Do you think we'll miss her?  
Do you think we'll cry?  
Or will we sneak into her room,  
Pull the plug and say "bye bye!"?

HOMER

Enough! Stop it! All of you! This is horrible! Patty's in the hospital! She may be dying, I don't know. And you're running around like mean little children on a playground.

RICHARD

So, how many points do we get?

HOMER

Points? Points?!? Zero! How about that, huh?

RICHARD

But that leaves us with only...70.

HOMER

Well, better luck next time. Now, Tif, what hospital was she at?

TIF

(Gets close to Homer, holding purse)

Why? You don't know her.

HOMER

I need to give my report in person.

TIF

She's in a coma!

HOMER

Well, I...I want to visit her. To give her some support. Obviously she's not going to get it from you.

TIF

I think you and Theo should just go on your date and forget about it.

THEO

Absolutely! Come on Homer.

HOMER

After what I saw today...

THEO

Nonsense! We should go right now. I'm hungry. How about dinner? I know this great Italian place called "Joseph's" on 19<sup>th</sup> Street near—

HOMER

Theo, how can you—?

RICHARD

Life is short. Get the most out of it while you can.

LUCY

You don't get many chances at true love, Homer.

THEO

You're a good man, Homer, and I'm not letting you go.

HOMER

But Patty...

THEO

Forget about Patty. Think about us.

HOMER

I love her, you idiot. I can't...uh, I mean.

THEO

You what?

HOMER

Patty's a friend. I've known her for...a little while now.

THEO

Homer...what are you not telling me.

(Beat)

I have a right to know.

HOMER

(Quietly)

We are...involved.

THEO

(Loudly)

You are Patty are in a relationship?

TIF

What?

HOMER

Theo! Please. Yes. We're in a relationship. Now tell me where she is!

TIF

(Holding purse)

I can't believe it. You and Patty are in a relationship.

HOMER

Yes.

Is that why we're here?  
LUCY

No!  
HOMER

Oh. This is...uh... so sad. I need a tissue.  
TIF  
(Looking inside purse)  
(Tif moves to the side and rummages through purse,  
trying to turn voice recorder on)

Where are my tissues?  
HOMER

I do love her. God, what was I thinking?  
THEO

What about us?  
HOMER

Forget the coffee, Theo. Just...forget it all.  
TIF  
(Turns on voice recorder)

There we go.  
HOMER

I'm leaving right now. What hospital...?  
TIF  
(Returning to group)

So, Homer. How long have you been dating Patricia?  
HOMER

Excuse me?  
THEO

I deserve to know the truth.  
HOMER

Just tell me what hospital...?  
THEO

How long, Homer?

A year. Satisfied?

HOMER

So you've been dating Patricia for a year.

TIF

Yes. What's the point of—

HOMER

What?

TIF

Huh?

HOMER

Can you speak up, please?

TIF

HOMER  
(Loudly)  
I have been dating Patty for a year. A year! And it's been great! Watching people like you squirm. Finally someone who understands me! There! Happy? Now will you tell me what goddamn hospital she's at!

TIF  
(Looking in purse)  
Uh. She's not in the hospital.

HOMER

What?

THEO

You got it?

TIF

Yup.

(Adjusting voice recorder in purse)

HOMER

Got what?

TIF

Here we go...

HOMER (REC.)

I have been dating Patty for a year. A year! And it's been great...

HOMER

What's going on?

THEO

Proof! We have proof!

HOMER

Proof of...wait, are you saying...

RICHARD

I think 90 points sounds good.

HOMER

Patty's okay?

THEO

A nice round number.

TIF

Patricia is fine, Homer.

LUCY

(To Homer)

It's very simple, dear. You give us 90 points, and we keep this recording secret.

HOMER

But you only got...wait, you're...

TIF

Is this part where we say "blackmail is an ugly word"?

HOMER

You lied?!?

THEO

Go ahead.

TIF

"Blackmail" is an ugly word, Homer.

HOMER

That's horrible! You're terrible! Theo! How could you do this to me? I thought...you...

THEO

Yes, well, I'm just here for my job. 90 points, baby. Unless you want to see Patty get fired.

HOMER

You bastard.

RICHARD

I wonder if the company would sue Resource Maximizers.

THEO

Oh! I hadn't thought of that.

HOMER

My God.

RICHARD

One more thing: no more of these workshops for Adirondack employees.

LUCY

Good idea, though I don't think he and Patty would dare, after this point.

HOMER

Fine. Fine. 90 points. And a glowing review of your performance. Is that enough?

THEO

Sounds good to me.

RICHARD

Excellent.

LUCY

I could use another beer.

(Richard, Lucy, Tif and Theo move towards the exit)

THEO

Cape Cod for me. It's been a tough day.

RICHARD

I think I'm feeling like a gin and tonic. Come on, team, the first round is on me.

(Richard, Lucy, Tif and Theo exit)

Great.

HOMER

(Cell phone rings. Homer answers.)

Hi, Patty.

(Lights down)

THE END