

SEDUCTRESS

SHORT RADIO PLAY

ORIGINAL TITLE: ZAPELJIVKA

MATEJA PERPAR 2013

JANE

MAN

ANSWERING MACHINE

I.

Woman normal sound, man on the phone.

ANSWERING MACHINE *(a kind, slightly seductive voice, sweet music in the background): Hi, this is Seductress, your personal love assistance hotline with long-lasting tradition. The price of your call is 91 cents per minute. If you are in need of advice and you are a woman, press one. If you are in need of advice and you're a man, press 2.*

The sound of a button being pressed.

ANSWERING MACHINE: *You are the first in the waiting line. Our assistant will take your call in approximately 30 seconds.*

JANE: Hi, this is Seductress. How can help you?

MAN: Hi. Err... What's your name?

JANE: Jane.

A short beep. The line is disconnected.

ANSWERING MACHINE: *Hi, this is Seductress...*

The sound of a button being pressed.

JANE: Hi, this is Seductress. How can help you?

MAN: Jane...

JANE: Hi, this is Jane speaking.

MAN: Err, the line was disconnected. I was going through a tunnel...

JANE: Perhaps you shouldn't be calling while you're driving...

MAN: Yeah, yeah. I'm in the car park now. So... Jane... What are you wearing?

JANE: *(pause)* This is... a bit of a misunderstanding... Here... we help people with personal problems.

MAN: Yeah, yeah, I have a personal problem.

JANE: Then tell me about it.

MAN: I've got a real hard on.

JANE: *(sighs, short pause)* What's your name?

MAN: I'm Geo.... John.

JANE: Well, John... this isn't the way it works.

MAN: Then let me talk your colleague.

JANE: I'm the only one here.

MAN: Well, if it doesn't work this way... why do you call yourself Seductress?

JANE: Aaahh, actually, I took over the line from my friend...last month. She got married and went abroad... to England, to Brighton.... I was looking for a job...

There was nothing else.... And I don't want this to be just... dirty talk and moaning...

MAN: Aha.

JANE: You've probably called here before.

MAN: Yeah. I have.

JANE: I'm sorry. I can't do this the way she did it... To me it's... It's... funny.

MAN: Hmm. What do you do then?

JANE: I'm a social worker.

MAN: *(smirks)* Shit. Now, this is funny. *(smirks again)* All the social workers I know are just...plain... ugly. Sorry.

JANE: *(pause, offended)* What can I say? They didn't tell us about such situations at the university.

MAN: Sorry... You have brown hair?

JANE: *(pause, slightly defiant)* Yes.

MAN: Well, bet it's probably short... and... you always wear a white blouse and a brown cardigan. Brown or grey trousers. Flat-heeled shoes... And glasses...

JANE: *(laughs)* No. No, no. You're completely wrong. I have long hair.

MAN: Yeah?

JANE: Mhm. Quite long, actually. And... I'm in a white summer dress, it's hot in here, you know, with red flowers... and white sandals. With high heels... And I see like a hawk.

MAN: *(breathing hard as she speaks)* Ah, I'm hard again now.

JANE: I told you I was sorry... It's a good thing. It means you're healthy.

MAN: *(cynical)* Oh, yeah. That's sadly not the case. It means my wife doesn't let me have any.

JANE: Have you tried to talk to her?

MAN: *(sighs)* Jane, many things aren't taught at your university.

JANE: *(short pause)* Has it been long?

MAN: Celibacy? Yeah. Six... no, seven... years.

JANE: *(sympathetic)* Oh, my god.

MAN: Mhm. Since the birth of our son. Yup. And I'm not so ugly... or a creep.

JANE: Oh, no, no. I didn't think so. You sound... really... nice.

MAN: Well, yeah. Listen. I'm running a bit late and I've already spent quite enough on this... before I get hard again for no reason. Have a nice day. Maybe I'll call you again.

JANE: Yeah, you're right. It isn't cheap. Well, have a good day... ahm... John.

MAN: *(pause)* Ahm... Geoffrey.

JANE: Geoffrey?

MAN: Mhm. Bye.

JANE: Bye.

II.

ANSWERING MACHINE: ... *if you are in need of advice...*

The sound of a button being pressed.

JANE: Hi, this is Seductress. How can help you?

MAN: Jane? Is that you?

JANE: Hi, this is Jane speaking.

MAN: *(clears his throat)* This is Geoffrey.

JANE: Err... Hi, Geoffrey. How can help you?

MAN: Don't you remember me? *(pause)* I called you about a month ago... I told you my name was John.

JANE: I'm sorry. I really couldn 't say....

MAN: No? I asked you what you were wearing.... I said my name was John first... We spoke about... *(sighs)* I had a hard one... all the time.

JANE: Oh, yes, Geoffrey! I'm sorry... I'm a bit tired. It's been such a difficult day.

MAN: Well, it's good to hear that I'm not the only one who's screwed up.

JANE: What's going on? Are you still... on hold?

MAN: Ahhh... I went out with this.... with a ... woman... Yeah.

JANE: Aha?

MAN: But it's over now.

JANE: Aha.

MAN: Yeah. It was... no good.

JANE: You didn't get along.

MAN: No, no, it didn't work... I couldn't... I... I didn't... just... I couldn't get it up.

JANE: Oh.

MAN: So I called you.

JANE: *(pause)* Oh, ok... It's OK, we can talk about it.

MAN: Well, I called.. I actually called because when we spoke last month I... I mean... To see if it... If I can...

JANE: Look, Geoffrey. I'm not sure this is going to work.

MAN: Sorry... Tell me, what are you wearing?

JANE: *(sighs, sternly)* A white blouse and grey trousers.

MAN: You're kidding, right?

JANE: *(laughing)* Yeah.

MAN: Thank god... You're wearing heels, right?

JANE: No, tracksuit and trainers.

MAN: Tracksuit and trainers?

JANE: Mhm. I'm going to the gym in ten minutes.

MAN: Oh. OK. What.for ... Pilates?

JANE: No... karate.

MAN: Wow! (*pause, breathing*) But then... when you're doing karate... you... you don't wear shoes, do you?

JANE: (*smiling*) No.

MAN: I'm sure you have painted toenails, ah? (*breathing*) This is so sexy.

JANE: Yup.

MAN: (*breathing heavily*) Oh, I can see everything's OK.

JANE: Well... I'm glad to hear it.

MAN: Well... I'm glad, too. I'm going to stop now. OK, you go ahead, run to the gym... Karate... Thanks...

JANE: No problem.

MAN: Yeah... have a nice evening.

JANE: Yeah... you too.

MAN: Bye, Jane.

JANE: Bye, Geoffrey.

III.

ANSWERING MACHINE: ... *personal love assistance hotline with long-lasting tradition...*

The sound of a button being pressed.

JANE: *(coughing)* Hi, this is ... Seductress... Sorry... How can help you?

MAN: Hi, Jane. Geoffrey. You have a cold?

JANE: *(coughing, laughing)* Hi...Geoffrey... I'm sorry... No, a piece of my apple's gone the wrong way...

MAN: I see. Lunch break? You like apples?

JANE: Mhm. But not the green or yellow ones, they have to be red.

MAN: Oh, like Snow White, eh?

JANE: *(laughs)* Exactly. I'm a bit drowsy, too.

MAN: Mhm.... So, what are you doing?

JANE: Oh, just... looking for a job.

MAN: Yeah? What's wrong with this one? Not academic enough?

JANE: *(joking)* Neh, the colleagues are boring and ... No chance of promotion...

MAN: Hmmm.

JANE: What about you? Things any better?

MAN: Yeah. Much better now. My mother-in-law was staying with us for two weeks. Had to eat at home every night... Don't ask.

They both laugh.

JANE: Where do you usually eat?

MAN: Oh, I don't know... Out... Anywhere... In the evening , too... Chat with some pretty waitresses.

JANE: Ts, ts, ts.

MAN: Yeah... Listen, Jane, sorry. I've got another call...

JANE: Mhm.

MAN: I've got to go. OK?

JANE: Yeah. OK. OK. Have a nice evening.

MAN: Yeah, you too. Bye.

IV.

ANSWERING MACHINE : *Hi, this is...*

The sound of a button being pressed.

JANE: (*serious, sad*) Hi, this is Jane. How can help you?

MAN: Oh, hi. Geoffrey... You're not Seductress anymore?

JANE: Never have been.

MAN: Hey, hey. You sound really down today.

JANE: Oh, it's... just... all these interviews... I'm so fed up... Nothing doing. It's the same every time... (*sighs*)

MAN: Listen, Jane. I've got an idea.

JANE: Yeah?

MAN: Let's go for a coffee. Mhm?

JANE: I don't know.

MAN: Come on. To cheer you up a bit. Irish coffee?

JANE: Irish... Isn't that a bit far?

MAN: Ah, you're better already... social workers...

JANE: (*laughs*)

MAN: Come on. Irish coffee... or blueberry brandy if Snow White doesn't feel like apples today...

JANE: (*laughing*) OK, OK... You're on.

MAN: Great.

JANE: Where shall we meet?

MAN: How far is it for you to the teashop?

JANE: Ahm.. fifteen minutes.

MAN: Shall we say in half an hour, then?

JANE: OK.

MAN: Great. See you. Bye.

JANE: Bye.

V.

Man normal sound, woman on the phone.

The sound of a button being pressed.

JANE: Hi, this is Seductress. How can help you?

MAN: *(gently)* Hey, Jane.

Silence. The sound of a button being pressed.

JANE: Please, leave me alone.

MAN: *(gently)* Come on...Why did you leave so suddenly yesterday?

JANE: *(formal voice)* How can help you?

MAN: Aha. So it's like that now. Listen, Jane...

JANE: No, you listen to me. I don't know what's come over me. I don't know what's going on...

MAN: Come on, Jane. For me... it was wonderful...

JANE: Yeah...

MAN: Come on. You're fed up, I'm fed up. What... Things happen. It's life.

JANE: Geoffrey... you don't understand. I keep hoping... I keep dreaming... and I know... I know it can't be... It's nothing... It can never be...

MAN: *(sighs)*

JANE: Yeah?

MAN: We're a bit too old for fairy tales, aren't we?

JANE: Yeah. No.... The problem is ... that I really like you.

MAN: Yeah... And I like you.... So we have the same problem.

JANE: *(short pause)* I've got another call.

MAN: Yeah, OK. You have to earn a living.

JANE: Yeah.

MAN: Talk to you later, OK?

JANE: OK.

MAN: Bye.

JANE: Bye.

VI.

The sound of a button being pressed.

JANE: Hi. This is Seductress. How can I help you?

MAN: Hi.

JANE: Oh, hi!

MAN: I miss you. I miss you so much that I'm calling your hotline...

JANE: Oh...

MAN: *(sighs)* My son got into a fight at school... They stole his phone... and he's failed two tests.

JANE: *(listening, responding sympathetically)* Oh, dear...

MAN: The wife's cranky as hell.

JANE: The wife..

MAN: Yeah.. Sonia... Sorry...

JANE: Never mind.

MAN: And you?

JANE: Nothing.

MAN: When can I see you? Can we get together next Tuesday?

JANE: Geoffrey... I've got something to say to you...

MAN: Oh...That sounds serious...

JANE: Yeah.. .Well... *(brighter voice)* I've got a job.

MAN: Wow! Congratulations!

JANE: Thanks.

MAN: A good one?

JANE: Oh, I don't know. At a school... quite... far away... *(pause)* Perhaps it's for the best.

MAN: Mhm... you'll seduce a sports teacher...

JANE: *(laughing)* Come on...

MAN: *(laughing)* What...

JANE: So.... We won't be able to keep seeing each other...

MAN: Mhm... What about the hotline?

JANE: Nothing.

MAN: *(sighs)* What if.. Let's meet somewhere, come on, Jane... Just for a coffee...

JANE: Oh... Geoffrey... I'm sorry...

MAN: Come on.... Just for a coffee... You can come in your grey trousers and cardigan... and a big mackintosh covering you all over...

JANE: *(laughing)* Yeah... *(serious)* No. I want to straighten things out...

MAN: Mhm.

JANE: Not get confused by the same tricks again...

MAN: Yeah.

JANE: You know... About time...

MAN: Yeah... I understand.

JANE: Yeah...

MAN: Well, I wish you... every success... in your job.

JANE: Thanks... Thanks... I wish you well, too... I hope you have a good life...

MAN: My life's... you know.

JANE: Yeah.

MAN: *(sighs)* Look... I've got to go. The wife called... The kid's going on a field trip tomorrow... wants to eat Happy Cow for breakfast...

JANE: *(smiling)* Happy Cow's good.... and old garden tea... with lemon...

MAN: *(laughs)* Yeah....old garden... or rosehip.... with a lot of sugar...

JANE: *(pause)* Yeah.

MAN: *(pause)* Well... That's it, then.

JANE: Yeah. That's it.

MAN: Take care, Jane.

JANE: Yeah, you too, Geoffrey.

MAN: It was good talking to you, you know.

JANE: Yeah. And to you.

MAN: Bye.

JANE: Bye.

END

RELEVANT INFORMATION IN ENGLISH

TOTAL CAST SIZE: 3 (2 f / 1 m)

GENRES AND OTHER LABELS: short radio play

TARGET AUDIENCE: adults, young adults

KEYWORDS: yearning, dating, intimate relationships

PLAY PRODUCTIONS: Directed by Klemen Markovčič, Radio Slovenija, 2013

COMMENT: THE SEDUCTRESS is an exceedingly radiophonic radio play, consisting of a series of short scenes, telephone conversations between a man and a woman. She is a social worker who is forced to work for an erotic hotline in order to earn a living. He, the caller, has a wife, a son and a steady job, yet he is bored and dissatisfied, with a thirst for impersonal sexual gratification.

However, after their slightly clumsy and arrogant initial contact, the relationship gradually becomes more and more involved and personal, unveiling their deeper feelings and desires. The Seductress speaks of the compatibility and incompatibility of universal human yearnings and reality.

SCRIPT EXTRACT: ANSWERING MACHINE *(a kind, slightly seductive voice, sweet music in the background): Hi, this is Seductress, your personal love assistance hotline with long-lasting tradition. The price of your call is 91 cents per minute. If you are in need of advice and you are a woman, press one. If you are in need of advice and you're a man, press 2.*

The sound of a button being pressed.

OTHER SCRIPTS BY THIS AUTHOR: A Bit of a Sin

TRANSLATION: Mateja Perpar

LANGUAGE OVERVIEW: Paul Jeffs

Any use or reproduction of all or any part of this text without the written permission of the author is strictly prohibited. For the author's contact please write to sigledal@gmail.com.

Any use or reproduction of all or any part of this text without the written permission of the author is strictly prohibited. For the author's contact please write to sigledal@gmail.com.