



## THE ANNIVERSARY PARTY

By Connie Dinkler

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Synopsis: A bitter woman is having an anniversary party to celebrate the anniversary of her divorce when her ex-husband shows up at the party uninvited.

CHARACTERS:

PATSY CRENSTON: mid to late forties, angers easily, tends to take advantage of people.

STEWART CRENSTON: mid to late forties, easy going, lacks any ambition or motivation, generally a pretty nice guy, just not to Patsy.

EDWARD RATINSKI: late thirties, bachelor, intellectual, positive.

Set Requirements: two folding chairs

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Setting: In the living room of an old house.

At Rise: PATSY enters stage left carrying a folding chair. She unfolds it, sets it on the floor and stares at it, trying to decide where to put it. EDWARD enters stage right.

EDWARD

Greetings, neighbor. I received your communiqué regarding your requirement for assistance for some sort of soirée.

PATSY

For once, can't you speak English Edward?

EDWARD

You need help with a party?

PATSY

That's right. It's about time you got here! Did you bring your chairs?

EDWARD

Yes, they are just outside. I have a query though - what sort of social gathering are you hosting?

PATSY

It's an anniversary party.

EDWARD

Lovely! For whom?

PATSY

For me!

EDWARD

(scratching his head)

I'm slightly perplexed. Haven't you and Mr. Crenston been divorced for quite some time now?

PATSY

(smiling)

Yep!

EDWARD

Patsy, please enlighten me if I am mistaken, but it has always been my understanding that one requires a spouse in  
(Cont'd)

EDWARD (Cont'd)  
order to have an anniversary party.

PATSY  
This ain't that kind of anniversary party.

EDWARD  
Well, it certainly could not be in celebration of an anniversary of employment.

PATSY  
Nope.

EDWARD  
One would need a position of employment for that.

PATSY  
I am celebrating the anniversary of my divorce.

EDWARD  
(Astonished) I beg your pardon?

PATSY  
You heard me.

EDWARD  
Surely you are not serious.

PATSY  
Of course I'm serious. Why wouldn't I be?

EDWARD  
Because it's ludicrous!

PATSY  
(mocking him)  
Edward, please enlighten me if I am mistaken, but it has always been my understanding that one has a party in order to celebrate.

EDWARD  
Most often, yes.

PATSY  
Well, today is the anniversary of the day I got rid of that sorry, waste of skin, ex-husband of mine and I can't think  
(Cont'd)

PATSY (Cont'd)

of a single thing that is worth celebrating more than that!

EDWARD

But-

PATSY

Now are you going to help me with this party or not!

EDWARD (sighing)

Yes.

PATSY

Good, 'cause I'm expecting guests any minute and I still got to get down to the market for more cheese whiz.

EDWARD

Patsy, it is often said that the opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference. It seems to me that commemorating the anniversary of your divorce with such fanfare is not a sign of indifference at all.

PATSY

If I wanted a shrink I would have called Dr. Phil. I did not call Dr. Phil. I called Edward Ratinski. 'Cause he's got chairs. And I need chairs. (pointing as she speaks) Now please bring the chairs in here and leave your psychobabble out there.

EDWARD

All I'm say -

(STEWART suddenly bursts  
into the room stage right.)

STEWART

Here I am! I'm not late am I? Has it started yet? Where's the food?

PATSY

(horrified)

What the hell are you doing here?

STEWART

(ignoring Patsy, to Edward)

Hi Eddy, how've you been?