

HAPPY
by Samantha Paradise

Cast of Characters

ROBERT TERRY: 40-year-old man. He is tall with tanned white skin, jet black hair, and dark brown eyes. He works as a salesman for the car dealership that is in town. Married to JUDITH, with whom he shares three young children. He is clever, but also blissfully ignorant.

JUDITH TERRY: 27-year-old woman. She is tall, slender body, pale white skin, with perfectly maintained blonde hair and bright blue eyes. She is a housewife, married to ROBERT. She seems quiet, reserved but also has an anger inside her.

Place

The Terry Family Home in Ossining, NY

Time

1961, early spring.

ACT I

Scene 1

Setting: The kitchen inside the Terry family home. There is a wooden kitchen table with four regular chairs and a high chair. Further upstage there is the (from stage right to left) mint green fridge, the stove top, the sink, and extended countertops. Dark wood cabinets line the walls above the appliances.

At Rise: JUDITH is cleaning off the table from dinner, it is obvious that no one sat and ate at the place setting set at the head of the table. She seems disappointed, but still composed and going about what she needs to do. She is facing upstage, washing the dishes and enter ROBERT stage left through the garage door.

JUDITH (with a soft smile):
Hello darling
(she walks over to him)

ROBERT (taking off his hat as she takes off his jacket):
Thank you, honey. I am sorry I am late, I went out for a drink with John.
(he sits down at the head of the table and lets out a sigh)
Get me a drink would you? It's been a day.

JUDITH (obviously bothered by something):
Of course.
(she walks off stage, we watch ROBERT for a moment. She returns with a bourbon on the rocks)

Here you are
(she hands him the drink, he takes a sip. JUDITH goes back to working in the kitchen)

ROBERT:
You won't believe what Don Stevens did while making a sale today. This man came into the dealership and he brought his wife with him. So Stevens, taken by surprise, simply goes 'Sir, should you really be bringing along the old lady while you're looking for a new gal'
(laughs)

And it was the darndest thing- the man laughed so hard and enjoyed Stevens' attitude so much that he just signed for a slug bug. Right then and there- no negotiating or anything of the sort!

JUDITH (unenthusiastically):
That's incredible sweetheart

ROBERT:
Well yes, yes it was.
(clears his throat)
Well how was your day?

JUDITH:

Nothing much, the usual. Feeding the children, cleaning up after the children, putting the children to bed.

(beat)

I went next door to Betty's

ROBERT (smiles):

That must've been nice, how is she doing?

(takes another sip)

JUDITH:

She asked John for a divorce last night

ROBERT (taken back):

She asked-

(laughs)

She did no such thing, John would've told me earlier. You must be joking.

JUDITH (her attitude shifts):

Do I look like I am joking Bobby?

ROBERT:

Don't take that tone with me.

(beat)

I tell you a fun, light hearted story from my day working, which I do so you can keep dilly dallying around here all day, and I told you I had had a rough day and you chose to beat the dead horse here-

JUDITH (angrily):

It is ALWAYS about you

ROBERT (confused):

What are you talking about Judy?

JUDITH (facing him directly, keeping eye contact);

I work too- maybe not in the same way you do. I am exhausted at the end of the day and there is a system that would not run without me. Just like you. Yet, your problems and feelings are the only ones that matter. You had a bad day, so I can't talk about anything that is less than happy. Well, you know what Bobby- you can just well- you can just shut your mouth and listen to *me* for once!

(beat, she goes back to working in the kitchen)

You want to hear why Betty asked John for a divorce?

ROBERT (so confused, also nervous):

I suppose I would like to hear a justification

JUDITH:

Turns out he had been unfaithful

ROBERT (takes another drink):
Well that's just- that is disgraceful. Betty has never been anything but kind-

JUDITH (turns to him):
How many were there?

ROBERT:
Pardon?

JUDITH:
How many women were there?

ROBERT:
Jesus Judy, how would I know how many-

JUDITH:
Betty said that when she confronted John about the women, he said that he was going out for a drink with you. Everytime instead of being with you like he said, he would be going to a motel room.

ROBERT (nervous)
Well that is-
(stammers)
I can't believe he would-

JUDITH
So where were you when you would go out for a drink with John? You couldn't have been with him, he admitted he used it as a ruse to go to the motel.

ROBERT:
Judith, I was with John

JUDITH (frustrated):
Damn it Robert, stop lying to me!

ROBERT:
I'm not lying to you Judith. I was with John.

JUDITH (disgusted):
You went with him to meet his women??

ROBERT (now calm, honest):
No, no, I
(beat, he stands up)

I was with John in the motel. I guess John thought he would avoid further pain by telling Betty he was with other women.

JUDITH:
You and John are-

ROBERT:
We are, well I am not sure what we are. He makes me happy, Judy. He hears me, and truly listens. He likes every part of me, even when I get angry. You have been an excellent wife, you have done everything right. I don't really understand why I feel as I do but,

(beat)

I love him, in a way that I could never with you. Judith-
(he reaches for her hand, she pulls away)

I want a divorce.

(judy walks off stage, ROBERT is left there)