

Making the Rent  
by  
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FADE IN:

EXT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

As a car pulls to a stop in front of a restaurant, MAN #1 steps out and hands his car keys to a PARKING VALET.

He goes to the passenger side of the car and opens the door for WOMAN #1, then leads her to the front of the restaurant and opens that door for her, too.

INT. RESTAURANT. RECEPTION AREA/DINING AREA - CONTINUING

A HOSTESS escorts the couple to a table in the center of the room where other, seemingly happy couples, are already seated.

As they take their seats, Man #1 reaches across the table and lovingly pats Woman #1's hand.

She withdraws it self-consciously, however, when a BUSBOY arrives to fill their water glasses while...

AT ANOTHER TABLE

...MAN #2 pulls a jewelry box from one of his pockets and slides it across the table to WOMAN #2 who looks from it to him with an ever-increasing smile as...

AT YET ANOTHER TABLE

...WOMAN #3 -- middle-aged, in a business suit -- kicks off one of her shoes, then moves her foot suggestively up the leg of Man #3 -- younger, a boy toy, perhaps -- to his crotch.

The demeanor of at least one member of each couple suggests they're cheating on someone.

INT. RESTAURANT. FOOD PICK-UP WINDOW - CONTINUING

A MALE and FEMALE SERVER approach the pick-up window from opposite directions and begin picking up their food orders.

FEMALE SERVER

It's busy tonight.

MALE SERVER

Really busy.

FEMALE SERVER

And did you see all that bling on display?

MALE SERVER

Lotta bling on display.

FEMALE SERVER

Which reminds me, the rent's due tomorrow.

MALE SERVER

Didn't we just pay rent last month?

FEMALE SERVER

That, and the phone bill, the cable --

MALE SERVER

I guess we better go to work then.

With a shrug, they exit with their food orders in the same directions from which they came.

INT. RESTAURANT. DINING AREA - CONTINUING

In the short distance between the pick-up window and the dining area, the servers manage to pick up an attitude, one that's clearly evident in the way the female server looks at the male server as they deliver the food orders to adjacent tables.

MALE SERVER

(to female server)

What?

FEMALE SERVER

You know what?

MALE SERVER

If I knew what, I wouldn't be asking what, now would I?

He turns his attention to the customers at his table, feigning cheerfulness.

MALE SERVER (cont'd)

Okay, now, who ordered the veal?

As WOMAN #4 hesitantly indicates that she did:

FEMALE SERVER

(to Male Server)

You might.

(to Couple #5)

Sorry. Is there anything else I can get for you at the moment?

MALE SERVER

(to Couple #4)

More bread? Fresh pepper, perhaps?

Couples #4 & #5 shake their heads 'no.'

FEMALE SERVER  
 (to Couple #5)  
 Well, then, enjoy your meal.

MALE SERVER  
 (to Couple #4)  
 Enjoy your meal.

The servers move to other tables and begin taking food orders for Couples #6 & #7 respectively as if it's a competition.

MALE SERVER (cont'd)  
 (to Couple #6)  
 How is everyone today?

FEMALE SERVER  
 (to Couple #7)  
 Don't you two make a nice-looking couple!

MALE SERVER  
 (to Couple #6)  
 Why don't I start by telling you our specials today?

FEMALE SERVER  
 (to Couple #7)  
 I think you'll really like our specials today.  
 (to Male Server, as  
 an aside)  
 I don't know how you can deny it when you know very well I saw you with her.

MALE SERVER  
 I told you. It didn't mean anything.

FEMALE SERVER  
 Like it didn't mean anything the last time? And the time before that? Maybe we don't mean anything?

MALE SERVER  
 You don't mean that!

All eyes are on the servers now.

## FEMALE SERVER

I don't know. Maybe I do. Maybe I'm tired of your lies, your excuses, your heartfelt apologies, all of which I'm sure you practice in front of a mirror to make sure they're convincing.

(to Couple #7)

There'd be a lot more happy women in the world if men just sowed their wild oats before they got married.

## MALE SERVER

(to Couple #6)

It was sex and that's all it was. It wasn't even good sex.

With a guilty look on his face, MAN #1 throws several bills down on the table and exits, leaving WOMAN #1 alone.

## FEMALE SERVER

Did you even think of me when you were having this not-so-good sex? Did you think about your children and what they would think of their father if they ever found out? And what about her husband? I don't suppose you thought about him either.

Man #2 and Woman #3 also throw money onto their respective tables and exit as the female server begins to CRY.

## FEMALE SERVER (cont'd)

No. I don't suppose you did.

The male server goes to her and wraps her in his arms.

## MALE SERVER

I honestly didn't think it'd mean that much to you.

## FEMALE SERVER

How can you say that? When we got married, we promised to love, honor, and be faithful to one another. Were they just words?

## MALE SERVER

No, of course not. And if you give me another chance, I promise I'll do better.

(more)

MALE SERVER (cont'd)

(off her look)

Not better. I'll do it, I'll love you  
and honor you and be faithful...just  
like I promised and for as long as I  
live.

As he continues to comfort her, one member from each of the  
other couples throws money onto the table and exits, too.

Slowly, the remaining diners -- some angry, some resigned to  
the situation -- exit as well until only the servers are left.

When they turn to see they're alone, they break their embrace  
and slowly begin picking up the money -- far more than the  
meals would actually cost -- from the tables.

MALE SERVER (cont'd)

Looks like we can pay the rent now.

They both break into smiles as we

FADE OUT:

THE END