

Marionettes Inc.

written by

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EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Two men, SMITH and BRALING around the age of thirty five are walking on the sidewalk around 10pm.

SMITH
(Turns to face Braling)
But why so early?

BRALING
Because

SMITH
Your first night out in ten years
and you go home at ten o'clock.

BRALING
Nerves, I suppose

SMITH
What I wonder is how you ever
managed it. I've been trying to get
you out for ten years for a quiet
drink. And now, on the one night,
you insist on turning in early.

BRALING
Mustn't crowd my luck

SMITH
What did you do, put sleeping
powder in your wife's coffee?

BRALING
No, that would be unethical. You'll
see soon enough.

SMITH
Honestly, Braling, I hate to say
this, but you have been patient
with her. You may not admit it to
me, but marriage has been awful for
you, hasn't it?

BRALING
I wouldn't say that

SMITH
It's got around, anyway, here and
there, how she got you to marry
her. That time back in 1979 when
you were going to Rio-

BRALING

Dear Rio. I never did see it after all my plans.

SMITH

And how she tore her clothes and rumbled her hair and threatened to call the police unless you married her.

BRALING

She always was nervous.

SMITH

It's extremely unfair, you don't even love her and you told her that yourself.

BRALING

I do recall being quite firm on the subject, but regardless of that take a look at this.

(Pulls out a long blue plane ticket)

SMITH

Why that's a ticket for Rio on Thursday. Good for you, you deserve it! But won't she object?

BRALING

She won't know I'm gone. I'll be gone for a month and no one will be the wiser except you.

SMITH

(sigh)

I wish I were going with you.

BRALING

Poor Smith, marriage hasn't exactly been roses, has it?

SMITH

"Not exactly, married to a woman who overdoes it. I mean, after all, when you've been married ten years, you don't expect a woman to sit on your lap for two hours every evening, call you at work twelve times a day and talk baby talk. And it seems to me that in the last month she's gotten worse.

(MORE)

SMITH (CONT'D)

I wonder if perhaps she isn't just
a little simple-minded?

BRALING

Ah Smith, so conservative. Well
here's my house, would you care to
know my secret?

SMITH

Will you really tell?

BRALING

Look up there.

The two men look up at the top window of Braling's house, in
the window a man that posses the exact same features as
Braling looks down at them.

SMITH

Why that's you!

BRALING

Shhhhhhh not so loud
(waves at man in window)

SMITH

I must be insane

The man emerges from the street door of the apartment and
approaches the two men.

BRALING

Hello Braling

BRALING (CONT'D)

Hello Braling

SMITH

(stares in awe)
Is this your twin brother? I had no
idea-

BRALING

No no, put your ear to BRALING
TWO's chest.

Smith leans towards BRALING TWO's chest and instead of a
heart beat, a loud ticking is heard from Braling Two's chest.
Smith staggers backwards in shock and then touches the cheeks
of the mechanical man.

SMITH

Wh- where did you get him?

BRALING
Isn't he excellently fashioned?

SMITH
Incredible. Where?

BRALING
Give the man your card, Braling Two

Braling Two does a magic trick and a white card is produced, printed on it says: MARIONETTES, INC. Duplicate self or friends; new humanoid plastic 1990 models, guaranteed against all physical wear. From \$7,600 to our \$15,000 deluxe model.

SMITH
No way.

BRALING
Yes.

BRALING TWO
Naturally.

SMITH
How long has this been going on?

BRALING
I've had him for a month, when I don't need him I keep him in the cellar in a tool box. My wife never goes down there, and I have the only key to that box. Tonight I said I wished to take a walk to buy a cigar. I went down cellar and took Braling Two out of his box and sent him back up to sit with my wife while I came on out to see you, Smith.

SMITH
Wonderful! Wow, he even smells like you: Bond Street and Melachrinos!

BRALING
"It may be splitting hairs, but I think it highly ethical. After all, what my wife wants most of all is me. This marionette is me to the hairiest detail. I've been home all evening. I shall be home with her for the next month. In the meantime another gentleman will be in Rio after ten years of waiting.

(MORE)

BRALING (CONT'D)

When I return from Rio, Braling Two
here will go back in his box.