A NEW LEAF

HENRY
To Science.

HENRIETTA
Do you have any straws?

HENRY
Straws? No Straws.

HENRIETTA
I should have told you to buy straws.

HENRY
I have recently been reading Gregor Mendel's fascinating experiments with garden peas, and it has struck me again, how much we owe our understanding of plant genetics, with all it's myriad implications to that brilliant pioneer.

HENRIETTA
Yes, but we musn't forget Morgan and Muller. Morgan, Muller and Mendel.

HENRY
Who?

HENRIETTA
Gregor Mendel, the man who you just mentioned. Morgan, Muller, and Mendel, I think, are a perfect example of scientific synthesis. Um. Does it seem that....to you?

HENRY
No it doesn't!
Collective appraisal has never appealed to me.
HENRIETTA
Oh, I didn’t mean to criticize.....
(SHE DROPS HER WINE ON THE FLOOR).

....Oh your carpet, your beautiful carpet.

HENRY
Oh, that’s alright Henrietta, please. Now, now, don’t, please, Henrietta,

HENRIETTA
Is there any cold water?

HENRY
No, no, never mind, please sit down. Henrietta, Henrietta. Please.
Nonsense, Nonsense. The floor needed a touch of color
(...WHILE HE POURS HIS WINE ONTO THE CARPET – laughing)

HENRIETTA
Henry I’m so stupid and clumsy and goosh(?) I don’t know what to say.
I ruined another carpet.

HENRY
No, Henrietta, please. Stop that. Can you possibly believe for one
moment, that what happens to this foolish hairy floor covering matters
to me, when I have you sitting besides me, looking at me with your
beautifully soft, yet highly intelligent, well informed eyes, talking to me
in your gentle, yet perfectly modulated podium trained voice.

(SMALL LAUGH) You must think of me – very superficial.

HENRIETTA
Oh no, I don’t.

HENRY
Henrietta, eh.....eh....ah.....would you care for some more wine.

HENRIETTA
Oh yes, I would love some.
HENRY
Henrietta, Henrietta, I have something to ask you.
I, I,...uh, ah, umm....what time is it?

HENRIETTA
It's, um, oh, it’s 10 o’clock. I’m going to have to leave pretty soon cuz I have to get up tomorrow, very early, for a class.

HENRY
(HE TAKES A SIP....AND HAS LIKE A REFLUX)
Uh, oooh,

HENRIETTA
Pardon? Is something wrong? Henry?

HENRY
Oh, No, No.
Henrietta, Henrietta, we have a great deal in common you and I, we are both of the same Division: Vertebrata, the same Class Mammalia, the same Order Primate, the same Family Homididine, the same genus Homo, the same Species Sapiens....and the same variety of a class.

HENRIETTA
I don’t think there is a classified variety...

HENRY
(CUTTING HER OFF)
Keep quiet...oh I’m sorry. I’m very sorry. I, What...where was I...oh I, oh yes, in fact, the only difference between us is that I’m a man, and you’re a woman, and we don’t have to let that interfere if we are reasonably careful.

HENRIETTA
Yes, yes.

HENRY
Henrietta, what I’m trying to say is
(HE STANDS UP, GULPS DOWN THE REST OF HIS WINE...)
Will you marry me?
HENRIETTA
I beg your pardon?

HENRY
(HE BURPS, THEN DROPS HIS CLASS, BURPS AGAIN.)
Oh Henrietta, if you care for me at all, even if you don't care for me at all, but feel that you could learn to care for me at all,

(SHE STAND UP – WHILE HE"S TALKING)
in a reasonable amount of time, please say yes, there is often a tidy profit in specialation.

HENRIETTA
I care for you Henry, I do care for you.

HENRY
Oh Henrietta, Ahh.....Dammit to hell.
(HE GOES ON A KNEE, AND PUT IT ON BROKEN GLASS, YELLING AH....)

HENRIETTA
Did you hurt yourself?

HENRY
No, No, kneeling on broken glass is my favorite past time, it keeps me from slouching.

HENRIETTA
Do you think you should get up Henry?

HENRY
No, NEVER, not until I finish. I would kneel on anything for you Henrietta. Henrietta, if you turn me down it will be the end of me. I will literally have nothing...

HENRIETTA
I'm not, I wouldn't, I won't, I won't....
HENRY
You won’t

HENRIETTA
...and I wouldn’t, I’m not going to turn you down. Henry,

HENRY
You’re not.

HENRIETTA
No, I love you Henry, and that was my dream Henry, from the moment that you spilled your tea on Gloria Cummit’s ovason that someday you’d ask me to marry you. That was most of my dream.

HENRY
Henrietta darling, would this Saturday be too soon?

HENRIETTA
This Saturday?

HENRY
Yeah. This.

HENRIETTA
Uh, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday....Oh Heavens mercy. This...

HENRY
Well, answer yes or no Henrietta, for I’m intensely uncomfortable.

HENRIETTA
Yes, yes, yes.

HENRY
Oh, Thank you. Oh, thank you.
(GETS UP SLOWLY....IN PAIN, PANTING)

You’re a good girl. You’re a good, a good girl.
(HE TAKES OUT HANDKERCHIEF & DABS HER LIPS, THEN THEY KISS)
HENRIETTA
Heavens, I mean mercy, gracious, heavens.

HENRY
Stay with Heavens.