

CHIP, WENDY, GARY, MOM, DAD,  
KAREN: KAREN

IX

They're not wrapped but I have shrunken heads.

*The doorbell RINGS.*

GARY:

*(singing)* "Jingle Bells  
Jingle Bells  
Feliz Navidad—"

*Dad crosses and opens the door. CHIP is there. He is in his 30's, nice-looking and friendly.*

DAD:

Yes?

START

CHIP:

Hi. Is Wendy here?

WENDY:

*(gobsmacked)* CHIP!

GARY:

Chip?

CHIP:

I know you said family only, but I've got a big surprise announcement and I think you're going to be happy.

MOM:

Who's Chip?

WENDY:

My, uh... my boss.

*Chip crosses to Wendy, puts his arms around her and gives her a smoldering KISS. Mom, Dad, and Karen*

are aghast. Gary takes it in stride. When it is finally over:

**WENDY:**

(shocked) Mr. Lauden! I'm going to have to report this to H.R.!

**CHIP:**

What?

**GARY:**

So this is Chip. Read us a poem!

**CHIP:**

I see you got the flowers I sent.

**WENDY:**

Oh, those were from you? I wasn't sure.

**CHIP:**

It said: "From the one man who loves you."

**WENDY:**

I arrange affordable mortgages. It could be from anybody.

**DAD:**

I'm very confused here.

**CHIP:**

Me too a little? Wendy, you said just your immediate family and you're an only child. (re Karen) Who is she?

**GARY:**

That's her little sister, Mabel.

**WENDY:**

That's my best friend, Karen.

**CHIP:**  
(*re Gary*) And him?

**GARY:**  
I'm her dad.

**DAD:**  
I'm her dad.

**CHIP:**  
Huh?

**GARY:**  
"You didn't finish your chores, young lady."

**CHIP:**  
Yeah, that's his voice.

**DAD:**  
I'm still her dad!

**CHIP:**  
Then who is he?

**WENDY:**  
(*stalling*) He's my uh...

**GARY:**  
I'm her former—

**WENDY:**  
(*blurting out*) Nutritionist! Yes, he was my nutritionist.

**GARY:**  
(*after a big sip*) Drink egg nog all year round! Eggs and alcohol—what could be better?

**CHIP:**  
Nutritionist for who, Applebees?

**WENDY:**

*(pressing on)* One thing led to another and... here we are. Thanks for the flowers.

*Her foot tapping is becoming faster than the Bolero.*

**CHIP:**

*(to Karen, intrigued)* So... you're her best friend?

**DAD:**

You too? Stand in line, buddy.

**WENDY:**

Oh, for crying out loud. Chip, what do you want?

**CHIP:**

Right. Sorry. Wendy, I have something for you.

*She figures this can't be good.*

**WENDY:**

Great! Give it to me upstairs.

**CHIP:**

No. The reason I'm here is that I want to give it to you in front of everybody.

*He pulls out a small ring box and drops to one knee in front of her.*

**WENDY:**

Oh no.

**CHIP:**

Wendy, will you marry me?

*Mom gasps.*



**WENDY:**  
Chip, I—

**DAD:**  
Marry you?

**MOM:**  
Doesn't he know? You're already married.

**CHIP:**  
What?!

**DAD:**  
Just because this is Utah...

**GARY:**  
See? All these great secrets are coming out!

**CHIP:**  
I don't understand. *(to Wendy)* You're married?

**KAREN:**  
*(to Wendy)* Are you having an affair?

**WENDY:**  
No.

**CHIP:**  
Then what would you call it? We've been sleeping together for two months.

**MOM:**  
*(horrified)* WHAT?!

**GARY:**  
This is the best Christmas EVER!

**CHIP:**  
*(to Wendy)* Who are you married to?

**END**