

## THE STRANGEST THING

by Tim Bass

**GENRE:** Dramatic Monologue

**SYNOPSIS:** A husband is mystified when his wife tells him that she hates what he's become.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** For maximum effect, Doug should be as oblivious as possible to the irony of his words. He genuinely has no idea what the problem is.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 1

**TOPIC:** Marriage, Family, Christian Living

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** 1 Peter 3:7, Ephesians 5:25-28, 6:4

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon Starter, Illustration

**CHARACTERS:** DOUG

**PROPS:** None

**COSTUMES:** Modern clothing

**SOUND:** One wireless microphone

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Unspecific

### Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com  
www.DramaMinistry.com  
ISSN 1084-5917

Drama Ministry is a division of  
**Belden Worship Resources**  
www.beldenworshipresources.com

Publisher: **Regi Stone**

Executive Editor: **Kimberlee Crisafulli** / Assistant Editor: **Scott Crain**

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*Lights up on DOUG.*

**DOUG:** My wife said the strangest thing to me this morning. We were having coffee just like we've done for the past 15 years of our married life. She was sitting there at the table drinking from the "World's Greatest Mom" cup that Stephanie had given to her back when she was in first grade. *(Small laugh)* Ha. Can't believe she's going into the eighth grade this year. It's like I stepped out of the house for a minute to do some work, and when I came back in she was 14. How'd that happen? How'd I miss that? Hmm. I'm sorry...where was I? I was talking about something.

Oh, yeah. My wife.

I was telling you about this strange thing she said to me. Like I said, we were having coffee just like always; she was at the table, and I'd gotten mine to go. I try to be out of the house by 7:30 so I can beat traffic to the office. Stephanie gave me a to-go cup just this year with the words "Where's Dad?" printed on it. She can be so funny. So I'm heading toward the door when my wife says, "Doug, wait a minute." I thought, oh, man, I forgot to give her a kiss! So, I turn around to walk over to her and she says, "Doug, I can't do this anymore. I just can't."

Can't do this anymore? Do what? You know? I mean, it's 7:25, and I should be backing the ol' Beemer outta the garage. So I stand there with my coffee and my reports and my BlackBerry and my laptop, and I have no idea how to respond to this. "I can't do this anymore"? Do what? Have coffee? And I guess a few seconds had passed so I glanced at my watch to see how far off my schedule I was going to be, and that's when she said the strange part. Not that the first part wasn't strange, but this... She looks up from her coffee, she looks me straight in the face and says, "I can't stand to watch you anymore...I hate what you've become." And she gets up and walks away. Just like that. It was the strangest thing.

And so I've been trying to figure it out, you know? What she meant. I mean, I'm the same guy I was 15 years ago. I mean, I'm older and we've been married a long time, so of course a lot of the romance is gone. But, hey, that's how it goes, right? Romance is for the younger married couples. Let 'em get 15 years and two kids under their belt, right? Okay, sure, I'm gone a lot. Like I said, I try to get out of there by 7:30. I hate traffic. But I always leave the office no later than 8:00 p.m. so I'm home by nine-ish. I always go in and kiss the kids while they're sleeping. Always. I've worked really hard to give my wife what she wanted. I mean, isn't that what every wife wants? I bought a great house. It's the envy of everyone in the neighborhood. I never keep a car longer than two years. And you should see the guys down at work every time I reel in a new client. Wow! They totally wish they were me! Anyway, I've been trying to call her, my wife, all day and I'm getting the machine. I wanted to ask her what she meant.