

IN PERFECT ORDER

by RIKKI SCHWARTZ

GENRE: Comedic monologue

SYNOPSIS: A wife thoroughly briefs her new cleaning lady.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Much of the humor of the scene comes from the pace of the delivery, so rehearse until the lines can be delivered as unrelentingly as possible.

TIME: 5-6 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1F

THEME: Control; Surrender

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Philippians 2:5-8 & 4:6; Romans 12:1

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: "Power of Surrendering to God" Message

CHARACTERS:
WIFE

PROPS: Multiple (~ 25) page, bound, document. Telephone (landline). Blackberry (or other electronic calendar device). Clock or watch.

COSTUMES: Very well-coifed, well-dressed, woman

SOUND: Wireless microphone (optional)

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Well-appointed living room - spotless.

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Lights up.

Wife is looking at phone number on piece of paper, dials phone, waits...and then begins to speak frenetically, with little to no pauses between each sentence or paragraph...

WIFE: Yes, hello. Is this Natasha? *(quick pause)* Great. This is Alma Stickley, in Novi?... Mighty Maids gave me your number, and said you were expecting me to call at 4:30 today? I'm soooo glad they were able to find a replacement for me so quickly. I just can't tell you what I've gone through since our last cleaning person quit. I've been without a cleaning woman for over a week, and it looks like an episode of Hoarders in here! So, needless to say, you're a life-saver.

OK – let's start with what day of the week you'll be cleaning. I don't really care which day it is – but I'd prefer it be Tuesdays, at the same exact same time every Tuesday. And, if it's ok, I'd like to be here while you clean, just for the first... 10, 20 times or so, so I can make sure you're on track *(gets BlackBerry out of purse)*. So let's see - it goes without saying that you'll have to start tomorrow... But I can't do any time after 1, cuz my salon moved my hair color, waxing and nail appointments to tomorrow afternoon – so right now I look like a bad lounge singer who moonlights as a ditch digger. So it's definitely going to have to be first thing in the morning. Let's see, I work out from 6:30 until 7:20, pack lunches from 7:20 until 7:40, walk the kids to the bus at 7:40, and then my husband and I have our quality time from 7:45 until he leaves for work at 7:55. So... ok... if you want to come at 7:55, that would work... 7:55, 7:56... whatever works for you – I want to be flexible.

Notices clock or watch.

I'm sorry – can you excuse for a minute *(does not wait for a response - exits the stage - hear her speaking from off-stage)* John, it's getting late, we have to...you are not going to wear that shirt are you? No – out of the question. Now please, hurry and change into your gray striped button-down -- and make sure the kids are ready – I'm almost done with briefing the new cleaning woman. *(returns to stage/phone)* So sorry, it's a zoo around here today.

Oh... speaking of zoos... we do have a dog... the kids insisted... but don't worry, he doesn't shed on the carpet or furniture – we keep him in the yard. He hasn't been in the house for years.

Now...do you have any questions about my Instruction Manual I emailed the Agency to give you about cleaning my house? *(Picks up very very thick, stack of papers, neatly bound - not stapled)* I think you'll find that most of it is self-explanatory, but before you come tomorrow, I wanted to point out just a couple of things that you can read over ahead of time... on page...*(flipping)* 14, item 272: Make sure that after dusting the pictures, you