

Mrs. Swanson/John

- Mrs. Swanson.** How's gravity?
- John Dodge.** It's all right, I guess. (brief pause) What?
- Mrs. Swanson.** You were reading a book about gravity.
- John Dodge.** Oh, right. That's over. I just kind of lost the... you know. I mean, do I really need to know about that? Anyway, now, I'm taking this course on watercolor painting.
- Mrs. Swanson.** You're quite the Renaissance man.
- John Dodge.** It's not really a course. It's just the directions that came with the paints.
- Mrs. Swanson.** Well, still, it sounds great.
- John Dodge.** It's not. It's just some other thing.
- Mrs. Swanson.** I would think you'd make a really good uncle.
- John Dodge.** I would too, but yeah, no. I panic. Who wants a panicky uncle? I get anxious, you know?
- Mrs. Swanson.** I feel that way sometimes.
- John Dodge.** Me too.
- Mrs. Swanson.** (brief pause) So, Bob is finishing up some things with work and our old house. He just started up in a new position. He should be here soon. I still don't really know the place. It can get lonely, can't it.
- John Dodge.** Yeah. You get the mail, it's a clothes catalog. Maybe you leaf through it, maybe think, "Hey I could buy those pants." Then you think, "But then it'd just be me, again, in a different pair of pants." Then you go out and walk around, and that's your day, time for bed.
- Mrs. Swanson.** That's kind of gloomy. I like looking at catalogs. Things aren't so bad. I visit Bob here and there, if he's at a convention or something nearby. He's in sales.
- John Dodge.** I always wanted to be in something.

Mrs. Swanson. Yeah? Well, I'm sure you'll, you know...

John Dodge. Yeah? That's nice. Thanks.

Mrs. Swanson. (brief pause) I've been having trouble sleeping.

John Dodge. Oh, God - nighttime. Daytime, too. I'm like, "Enough - I get it." (Brief pause) I read articles about identity theft and I actually get a little jealous, you know? "Just take it," you know. "Good luck, fella." Sometimes, I think I should just go quietly retire, you know, alone in the bathroom, with a X-acto knife. But then I start up some dumb project or get a book about some idiot thing.

Mrs. Swanson. John.

John Dodge. You have a nice voice, I'm... I'm sorry...

Mrs. Swanson. Mary.

John Dodge. Mary, of course. I like it.