

The Odd Couple

Neil Simon

FELIX
OSCAR

Two old friends find themselves to be new roommates. They couldn't be more opposite.

OSCAR. I'd be immensely grateful to you, Felix, if you didn't clean up just now.

FELIX. *(Puts dishes on the tray)* It's only a few things.

OSCAR. Leave everything alone. I'm not through dirtying-up for the night.

FELIX. *(Putting stuff on the tray)* But don't you see the irony of it? Don't you see it?

OSCAR. Yes, I see it.

FELIX. *(Clearing the table)* No, you don't. I really don't think you do.

OSCAR. I'm telling you I see the irony of it.

FELIX. Then tell me. What is it? What's the irony?

OSCAR. The irony is — unless we can come to some other arrangement, I'm gonna kill you! That's the irony.

FELIX. What's wrong? *(puts down all the glasses and other things)*

OSCAR. There's something wrong with this system, that's what's wrong. I don't think that two single roommates living alone in an apartment should have a cleaner house than my mother.

FELIX. What are you talking about? I'm going to put the dishes in the sink. You want me to leave them here all night?

OSCAR. I don't care if you take them to bed with you. You can play Martha Stewart all you want. But don't make me feel guilty.

FELIX. I'm not asking you to do it. You don't have to clean up.

OSCAR. That's why you make me feel guilty. Last night I found you wishing the kitchen floor, shaking you head and moaning, "footprints, footprints!" I didn't say they were yours.

FELIX. Well they were mine. I have feet and they make prints. What do you want me to do, climb across the cabinets?

OSCAR. No! I want you to walk on the floor.

FELIX. I appreciate that! I really do.

OSCAR. I'm just trying to keep the place livable. I didn't realize I irritated you that much. *(Puts the rag down on the coffee table and sits down glumly on the couch)* I was wondering how long it would take before I got on your nerves.

FELIX. I didn't say you get on my nerves.

OSCAR. Well, it's the same thing. You said I irritated you.

FELIX. You said you irritated me. I didn't say it.

OSCAR. Then what did you say?

FELIX. I don't know what I said. What the difference what I said?

OSCAR. I was just repeating what I thought you said.

FELIX. Well, don't repeat what you thought I said. Repeat what I said! That's irritating!

OSCAR. You see! You did say it!

FELIX. I don't believe this whole conversation.

OSCAR. I'm sorry. I don't know what's wrong with me.

FELIX. And don't pout. If you want to fight, we'll fight. But don't pout! Fighting I win. Pouting you win!

OSCAR. You're right. Everything you say about me is absolutely right.

FELIX. And don't give in so easily. I'm not always right. Sometimes you're right.

OSCAR. You're right. I do that. I always figure I'm in the wrong.

FELIX. Only this time you are wrong. And I'm right. And don't sulk. That's the same as pouting.