

RAY

Uh, yeah. That's why I came over. I've been meaning to return it to you.

MARIE

Oh. (TAKING IT, GOING BACK TO COOKING)

I didn't want to say anything, but ...

this happens to be a very good fork.

Can you stay for dinner, dear?

RAY LAGS BEHIND IN THE LIVING ROOM AND LOOKS AROUND, FEELING AWKWARD, NOT SURE OF HOW TO BROACH "THE SUBJECT". HE LOOKS AT THE MANY PICTURES OF HIMSELF, HIS BROTHER, AND HIS KIDS, WHICH ARE ALL OVER THE LIVING ROOM.

RAY

No, thanks, I can't. Hey Ma, how come you don't have any pictures of Debra?

MARIE

Of course I have pictures!

SHE CROSSES INTO THE LIVING ROOM AND GRABS A TINY, FRAMED PHOTO OFF A LOWER SHELF.

MARIE (CONT.)

Here she is at your wedding with the rest of the head table. (AS RAY LOOKS CLOSELY) She's right there, behind Robert.

SHE RETURNS TO HER COOKING. THIS TIME RAY FOLLOWS HER.

Hi Ma - RAY

Um... I wanted to talk to you about

Debra's birthday. I was thinking about getting...

Everybody Loves Raymond

MARIE

Oh! My God. Speaking of birthdays. My birthday gift from you finally came this morning. Did you know it was a box of... pears? From some place called Fruit-of-the...month...?

RAY

Yeah, that's right. They okay?

MARIE

Oh. They're very nice pears, but... there are so many of them. There's over a dozen pears. What am I supposed to do with all these pears?

RAY

(AFTER A MOMENT) I think you're supposed to eat them.

MARIE

Myself?

RAY

(BEAT) You and Dad. And Robert.

MARIE

Robert's not a pear person. I appreciate the thought, Raymond, but please. Don't ever send food again. It's too much.

RAY

Well then--

MARIE

Why did you do this to me?

RAY

I didn't think it would--

MARIE

But you- you-- I can't talk now,
there's too much fruit in the house.

SHE CROSSES AWAY FROM RAY, AND BEGINS DUSTING NERVOUSLY IN
THE LIVING ROOM. AFTER A MOMENT, RAY CROSSES TO HER.

RAY

(AT A LOSS) I'm sorry, Ma.

SHE WAVES HIM OFF AND CONTINUES DUSTING. THE FRONT DOOR OPENS
AND FRANK ENTERS.

~~FRANK~~

~~RAY: I'm sorry, Ma.~~

MARIE

(TO FRANK) Do you know that the fruit
keeps coming, month after month? You've
gotten us into some kind of cult!

RAY

MA! I'm cancelling the fruit club.

MARIE

Oh. Oh. Thank you, Raymond. (A BREATH
OF RELIEF) And don't do that again.

RAY

~~Okay.~~

~~FRANK~~