



# A Nightmare

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**D**onald, a journalist, writes and works for the newspaper daily until very late at night. Work has really tired him out, and he hasn't had time for romance. Moreover, as he finds women annoying, he is still a bachelor. He cannot seem to communicate well with the opposite sex so he has decided to remain single for the rest of his life. He has also very often dreamt of all the disadvantages of marriage.

One stormy night, he was so tired that he simply dropped drowsily in the middle of his piled up work. A nightmare soon followed.

He was dreaming that he had married and living with his wife, Jenny. One weekend, Jenny asked Donald tenderly, with hope in her eyes, "My darling, I've been waiting for you for a long time, and I think it's time you go shopping with me." When Donald wanted to say 'no', Jenny interrupted and quickly continued, "Later when we enter the shop, first I will buy a golden dress, then the latest hat, shoes, trousers, glasses, mirror, bags..." On hearing the long, long shopping list, Donald just wanted to flee from his innocent wife, and replied angrily, "*Jenny* !!! Your behaviour is just so infantile! If you want to buy all those unnecessary and extravagant things, please use your own money! Please stop annoying me no more!"

Jenny started crying with tears flowing from her eyes and rolling down her face. She sobbed and said in a small, hesitant voice, "... Donald.....do you still love me? Why are you so angry with me?" Donald paused, softened a bit and replied, "Listen Jenny, it's time to grow more mature. You are already an adult. Don't be so childish!"

A few days later, Donald came across some problems again. When Jenny was reading the newspaper, she came across some very expensive and big houses splashed out on the pages. She began saying, "Donald, I think it's time to buy a house where we can have more space and also prepare for our children in the future. Besides, we've been living in this old, cheaply small house for quite some time. Can we move to something better and grander? I want to become a princess!"

Donald could not hold his annoyance and raise his voice, "Jenny, how many times have I to say? We both have so little income and we come from poor families, we cannot even afford some very basic spending. *How on earth* can we afford to buy a GRAND house?"

Jenny became very upset, and she shut up immediately. After that, it was dead silence.

Donald could no longer concentrate on his work. He was mad at himself to have married such a foolish and naïve wife. He regretted to have taken on this woman. The more he thought about this, the more his hands started trembling. His whole body started swaying, sometimes to the right, and sometimes to the left.

"Dring...dring...dring..." Suddenly the alarm clock went off. Donald jerked up from the nightmare and felt relieved and lucky that it was all but a terrible dream. Sitting up and wiping sweat off, images of Jenny just haunted him. The impact was so great that it made him hate marrying even more, further affirming his belief to continue living a solitary life ever after!