

Play name: The Mother of All Eating

Author: Zakes Mda

Published: 2001. Witswatersrand University Press. Johannesburg

Character: The Man

The Man:

Where can she be? She hasn't even left me a not. [*Laughs*] A 'Dear John' note perhaps. [*Laughs*] Not on your life. We have a good life together. You know, I have been fortunate in many respects, and I never stop counting my blessings, especially as far as she is concerned. The phone rings. He lifts the receiver.

The Man:

Hello! Oh, it's you, Jane. No, she is not here. I thought she was with you, as a matter of fact... Oh, my God, I wonder where she's gone to, particularly at this time of the night... Well I have just walked in ... From Johannesburg ... By plane, yes ... Well, the plane was delayed ... A very strange thing happened on the way from Johannesburg. I will tell you all about it this weekend. You are coming to dinner, aren't you? ... How's your man? ... How many men do you have then? ... I mean Joe, your Husband. You know, Jane, I think Joe has a lot to learn about life ... Yes, I sing about that every day. I will not stop pestering you tow about the way you conduct your lives, or misconduct your lives. That's what friends are for, and frankly I am very much concerned. This life is not for playing with. if he wants to mess up his life he must not drag you along with him. You deserve much better. The best things in life, like all the other women of our class ... Jane, I know we have been over that many times before ... But I always hope that one day you will see the light ... Anyway, give me Joe. I want to talk with him ... What? he's not there, and you have no idea where he's gone to? ... So I see, you went to the salon to braid your hair, and when you came back he was not at home... Well, maybe he's gone to the pub for a beer ... What do you mean he never drinks during the week? Are you talking of a different Joe from the one I know? My mate for decades, with whom I went to high school and to university? Is this a wishful invention of a new Joe with the virtues of a monk? Even monks have wine cellars ... [*Laughs*] Well, my wife has disappeared too. I came back home from a business trip in Johannesburg, and she is not home. [*Laughs*] Maybe she and Joe have eloped, in which case we must also set up house together. Swopping is not a bad idea at all. [*Laughs for a long time*] ... Of course I am kidding ... Well, Jane, okay man. I will talk with you again tomorrow. I have a lot of paperwork to do before I go to bed. Bye now!