

THE EVE OF AN ARGUMENT

by Ken Bradbury



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(Eden is on the phone)

Counseling Service, Pat Eden speaking. Who? I think you have the wrong number. This is a marriage counseling service. You want Orkin. Yes, they get rid of pests. Oh, your husband? I'll put you on with my secretary for an appointment. No. No, you can't spray for that kind of thing. Goodbye. *(Eden hangs up)* She wanted him exterminated.

(seeing someone enter) Good afternoon! Welcome to Eden Counseling. Mr. and Mrs. ... uh ... *(checks notes)* ... Adam and Eve? I don't think I have your last name here. No last name. That's fine. Lots of folks prefer to remain anonymous. Here ... just have a seat and ... *(he pulls out a chair then watches them sit in opposite corners)* ...okay... no need to sit together, I guess. Now, we'll just ... *(stops, stares a moment, then)* You know, it's funny how fast clothing styles can change. I guess I'm behind the times. Uh ... I've never seen outfits quite like those before. Matching, are they? Yes. Uh ... very nice ... comfortable, I imagine. And cool. No dry cleaning required! *(laughs, then sees the humor is not shared by Adam and Eve)*

Look, let's get acquainted, shall we. Now ... just how long have you two been married? Forever? Well, I'm sure it seems like it. What? It actually is forever? Whatever you say, Adam. And ... children? Several. Okay. I can see this isn't going to be easy.

Let's start with you, Adam. Why are you having trouble relating to Eve? The snake? What snake? The one in the garden. Oh. Have you tried a dog? Two of them? Male and female. But what does a snake have to do with ... the apple? I'm sorry, folks. You've got me confused here. You say the snake made her eat an apple? You know Adam, sometimes when the sun gets hot, you're tired, the plumbing needs fixing and the kids are driving you crazy ... well, it's easy to imagine things.

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