

RADIO ANNOUNCER

We interrupt this broadcast for a special report. From the oval office in the White House, a spokesman has informed us that a space object, called the Texas Asteroid because of its size, originally expected to pass safely past the earth, has changed its course and is now heading directly toward us. Scientific calculations confirm that the asteroid will strike us on September 3rd, exactly three months from now and destroy our planet. The President has asked all Americans to turn to whatever spiritual or religious faith you may follow in these last few months of our existence. All radio stations and TV networks will be asked to have a short period of silence after which regular broadcasting may be resumed.

(CYRUS puts down his newspaper and PHOEBE puts down her knitting. They turn to each other.)

PHOEBE

Did you hear that?

CYRUS

Sure did. I've been meaning to tell you that the scratching noise on the radio has been getting worse. Can't complain. It was my grandfather's and those radios never lasted more than seventy-five years.

PHOEBE

With that asteroid coming in three months, we can probably get a good deal on a new one at the mall.

CYRUS

I'll stop at the appliance store tomorrow.

PHOEBE

I've been meaning to talk to you about our living room furniture for a while. It was my grandmother's and starting to look a bit worn. This might be a good time to look for a new sofa.

CYRUS

We could buy one on credit. I think I saw an ad in the paper that says the first payment won't be due until six months after purchase.

PHOEBE

You've always been so much better than me with numbers, Mr. Finney.

CYRUS

That's how I've held onto my job as the third assistant to the assistant bookkeeper so long.

PHOEBE

I hate to give you bad news.

CYRUS

Just say it. We've always shared the bad news with the good.

PHOEBE

Our annual Labor Day barbecue could be on the same day that thing hits us.

CYRUS

Why don't we schedule the party a week earlier?

PHOEBE

I never would have thought of that. You can always find a way to work things out.

CYRUS

Who were you planning to invite this year?

PHOEBE

I was thinking of just our close neighbors, but with the news, I'd like to make the list larger...even include your brothers.

CYRUS

Are you sure you want to do that? They are awfully boring.

PHOEBE

They're so different from you.

CYRUS

I was the only one in the family with a sense of humor.

PHOEBE

I don't like to be bringing up more bad news, but there's a problem with our theatre subscriptions.

CYRUS

What's that?

PHOEBE