

A Crazy Couple—The Four and a Half Minutes

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Characters:

Claudia, a 38-year-old housewife, spends all day running the house chore. Every morning she has to get up early to fix the breakfast. Actually, she is a little bit tired of it.

Jorg, a 41 years old man, is a typical middle aged man. He has a steady job and works hard to support his family. He is also a very nice and considerate husband.

A middle-aged couple, Jorg and Claudia, are sitting together and having their breakfast.

The table is filled with all kinds of cheese, a load of toast, a bottle of fresh coffee, and cooked eggs. The weather is perfect with a shining sun and clear sky. As they are eating the eggs, the husband feels something wrong.

Jorg: Claudia...? (looking at the eggs on his plate with frowns)

Claudia: Yes? (still quietly enjoying her breakfast)

Jorg: The egg is so hard! A very hard egg.

Claudia: I heard it. (Her head is up and speaks coldly)

Jorg: How long have you cooked this egg?

Claudia: Too many eggs are not good for your health.

Jorg: I mean, how long have you cooked it?

Claudia: You'd better hurry! You have only four and a half minutes.

(She raises her voice.)

Jorg: I know. You don't have to remind me. I know my time well.

Claudia: What did you ask anyway?

Jorg: You shouldn't cook an egg for four and a half minutes.

Claudia: I cook the egg for four and a half minutes every morning.

Jorg: Then, why is it sometimes hard and sometimes soft?

Claudia: How do I know since I am not a *hen*. (getting angry)

Jorg: Then how do you know if the egg is done?

Claudia: My God!!! I just take it out of the pan after *four and a half minutes*. I just know.

Jorg: You distinguish it just because of the time? I ask how do you know from the appearance that the egg is cooked.

Claudia: Intuition. Every housewife has this kind of intuition.

Jorg: Intuition? What's your intuition actually?

Claudia: I have the intuition when the egg is softly cooked.

Jorg: But it is hard. Maybe your intuition is of no use at all!

Claudia: No use at all? I stand all day in the kitchen to wash the dishes and arrange everything in the living room. Not only that, I have to bear the kids crying and now you said my intuition is of no use at all???(the couple starts to fight)

Jorg: Yes, your intuition for the egg is incorrect. All I want is a soft egg for breakfast.

Claudia: Whatever you say, the most important thing is that a soft egg should be cooked in four and a half minutes.

Jorg: What I care is a soft egg. I don't care how long it should be cooked.

Claudia: Aha, you don't care about anything, you don't even care if I spend four and a half minutes working hard in the kitchen.

Jorg: No! No! I didn't say that. Why do you always say something I never mention before?

Claudia: Oh my God! Why do men still lead the cave life?

Jorg: You are such a crazy woman. All I ask is a soft, warm, and delicious egg in the morning.

Claudia: Then the egg must be cooked in *four and a half minutes*.

Jorg: Hmmm. . . . Claudia, from tomorrow morning on, I will do the breakfast!!!

(Claudia turns over her head with a big smile.)