

The doorbell rings in a family home. The wife races to answer it and finds two law enforcement officers on the other side of the door.

WIFE

Thank God you're here. Come in.

The officers step in.

WIFE (CONT'D)

I think you know why I called: It's because my husband is useless.

OFFICER ONE

Could you describe the uselessness?

WIFE

I fed the family. The kids need help with school work. And my husband is sitting on the couch, scratching his balls.

OFFICER TWO

We understand. This is our seventh "my husband is useless" call this evening.

OFFICER ONE

We're part of a new designated squad assigned to husband uselessness.

OFFICER TWO

I'm sure I know the answer to this: do both of you work?

WIFE

Yes, he and I both work full-time.

Officers are taking notes on their pads.

OFFICER ONE

That's what we figured.

OFFICER TWO

So you work and take care of the household.

WIFE

Exactly.

OFFICER ONE

Fits the pattern.

OFFICER TWO
Where is this slug of a man?

MOM
Follow me.

She leads the officers to the living room. The husband is sitting on the couch with a man-spread, staring at the TV.

OFFICER ONE
Sir, put down the remote.

The husband just looks at them.

OFFICER TWO
He said put down the remote.

HUSBAND
What are you going to do? Beat me like typical cops?

OFFICER ONE
No, but we will make you load the dishwasher.

OFFICER TWO
You gotta do something around here. Your wife works as well.

HUSBAND
She's a woman's libber. She wanted a career. It's her choice.

WIFE
You now need two incomes to survive. It's not really a choice.

HUSBAND
It's equality.

WIFE
Officers, please write this on your pads.

Officers follow directions.

WIFE (CONT'D)
How did equality become women do everything? Take that down, verbatim.

OFFICER TWO
Got it. We'll put it in our report.

OFFICER ONE
Who set the table tonight?

WIFE
You're really asking that question?

OFFICER TWO
Sorry ma'am, we have to ask.
Official procedure.

The husband unhooks his belt.

WIFE
Are you really undoing your pants
right now? Can we charge him for
resisting police?

OFFICER ONE
The penal code calls it resisting
getting off his lazy ass.

WIFE
It's like that old commercial. I
bring home the bacon. I fry it up
in a pan. And never, ever let him
forget he's a man? I've given up on
that one.

OFFICER TWO
I'm too young to know that
commercial.

WIFE
He plays video games for hours *and*
I have to prop up his manhood?
Really? That commercial ruined
women's lives. Fuck Enjoli. It was
a perfume. It smelled like shit.

OFFICER TWO
Ma'am, what else did you have do
alone this evening?

WIFE
I changed a light bulb. On the
ceiling.

OFFICER ONE
You let your wife change a
lightbulb? On the ceiling?

WIFE
On my own.

OFFICER ONE

On her own?

WIFE

I had to stand on the sofa on pillows to get high enough, and pray I didn't fall.

OFFICER TWO

You didn't even spot her.

WIFE

I gave him the old bulb to throw away. He put in on the table and I threw it away myself.

OFFICER ONE

Useless.

OFFICER TWO

Use-less.

OFFICER ONE

That's it. Get up, sir.

HUSBAND

But I'm gonna miss my show.

OFFICER ONE

DVR it. Now.

OFFICER TWO

It's about time you did something around here.

MONTAGE: Husband taking out the trash, scrubbing bathtub, cleaning the floor with a toothbrush. Officers and wife lurk over him during each task.

OFFICER ONE

Now listen to her feelings.

HUSBAND

Haven't I suffered enough?

Officers glare.

HUSBAND (CONT'D)

Fine.

We see husband and wife on couch. She talks as he nods.

Officers stand by the front door with wife.

OFFICER TWO

Call us again if you need us.

WIFE

I'm sure I'll have to.

The officers walk toward their car. The phone rings and one of the officers answers.

OFFICER ONE

Hi hon. I'll get the groceries on my way home. I forgot. I do care about your feelings. I know you work full-time too. And went through more years of school. And make more money. You bring home the bacon and fry it up in a pan.

FADE OUT.