

FREDDY. Where were you?

GERMAINE. At home, darling. Sitting in front of a mirror.

FREDDY. Why?

GERMAINE. Just looking. Seeing what all the fuss is about. Besides, a mirror is like a mind, if you don't use it, it loses the power to reflect.

FREDDY. Well, you should try to be on time, sweetheart.

GERMAINE. Oh don't be so old-fashioned — these are the Zeros.

FREDDY. This is the fourth day you're late.

GERMAINE. Are we going to fight? Let's not fight, Freddy. Let's be in love like yesterday. So tomorrow I can say, "Let's be in love like yesterday." Always. Always.

FREDDY. Okay, always. Now, anybody know what 62 francs 33 minus 37 francs 17 is?

GERMAINE. Why don't you let me do that?

EINSTEIN. 25 francs 16.

FREDDY. You sure?

EINSTEIN. 25.16.

FREDDY. You're positive.

EINSTEIN. Positive. Absolutely.

FREDDY. It's just that you come up with it awfully quick.

EINSTEIN. Look, if you want it to be different there's nothing I can do about it.

FREDDY. I'll work on it tomorrow.

EINSTEIN. It'll be the same tomorrow.

FREDDY. I've got my accountant friend coming over tomorrow; he can check it. He checks everything anyway.

EINSTEIN. You can have the math squad from Vishnu Numerical Center for the Intellectually Profound come over and it's still going to be 25 francs 16.

GERMAINE. Jeez, Freddy. Take his word for it.

FREDDY. What do you do? Are you a professor?

EINSTEIN. By day I work in the patent office.

GERMAINE. What do you do there?

EINSTEIN. By day I register notions. That's what they are really, notions. Short cuts. How to get something to do something quicker.

GERMAINE. And what do you do at night?

EINSTEIN. Ah. At night...at night, the stars come out.

GERMAINE. The stars in the sky?

EINSTEIN. The stars in my head.

GERMAINE. And after the stars in your head come out?

EINSTEIN. I write it down.

GERMAINE. Uh-huh. You been published?

EINSTEIN. No, no not yet.

FREDDY. Yeah, well, we're all writers, aren't we? He's a writer that hasn't been published and I'm a writer who hasn't written anything.

GERMAINE. And you're welcome here. We get a lot of artist types; writers, poets, painters. What do you write about?

EINSTEIN. I... I... I can't even begin to explain.

GERMAINE. Try. Simplify it. Can you say what your book's about in one sentence?

EINSTEIN. It's about everything.

GERMAINE. You mean like relationships between men and women?

EINSTEIN. Bigger.

GERMAINE. You mean like life from birth to death?

EINSTEIN. Uh, bigger.

GERMAINE. Like the warring of nations and the movements of people?

EINSTEIN. Bigger.

GERMAINE. I see, sort of like the earth and its place in the solar system?

EINSTEIN. Keep going.

GERMAINE. (*Growing exasperation.*) Okay, you're dealing with the universe and everything contained in it.

EINSTEIN. Why stop there?

GERMAINE. (*Giving up.*) Okay. Okay. How big is this book?

EINSTEIN. About seventy pages.

GERMAINE. Hmm, not too long. That's good. Maybe we can put you in contact with some of our publisher friends. What's the title?

EINSTEIN. The Special Theory of Relativity.

FREDDY. Catchy.

GERMAINE. Is it funny? Because if it's funny, you can really sell a lot of books.

EINSTEIN. It's very funny. Well, actually, that depends on what you mean by funny.

GERMAINE. Well, does it make you laugh? Chuckle? Smile?

EINSTEIN. No.

GERMAINE. But you just said it was funny.

EINSTEIN. I was trying to sell more books.