

The Water Woman

As the lights slowly come up, a woman is revealed. She is angry. She calls for her man, each time getting louder.

Ramona Jo! ... Jo! Jo!

Jo All right, all right! Keep your hair on! I was just off to get some water.

Ramona Where's the wood?

Jo Wood? Wood?

Ramona The wood I told you to get!

Jo Oh, sorry. I must have forgotten

Ramona How on earth do you expect me to cook without any fuel?

Jo Hey, I made a mistake. I forgot. That's all. Don't make such a big deal of it.

Ramona Big deal? Big deal! I am not making a big deal of it. How am I going to cook without fuel?

Jo Look, I've said I'm sorry. I don't see there's any need to repeat myself. Besides I've got to go and get some water.

Ramona To hell with the water!

Jo Look I don't see that there's any need for you to shout. I've said I'm sorry. Why don't you just ... improvise?

Ramona Improvise? You want me to improvise? I'll tell you what – you try improvising. You try cooking supper without any fuel, and I'll go and get the water.

[She grabs a bucket and storms off down the aisle. She mutters as she goes, and speaks angrily to persons in the audience. By the time she returns to the stage area the lights have come on again to reveal a male figure slumped near a well. He seems to be asleep, but as she approaches he looks up at her, and mutters a greeting. This is not well received.]

Ramona What are you looking at?

Jesus I was wondering if I could ask you a favour?

Ramona Oh yeah! A favour?

Jesus Could I have some of your water?

Ramona You're not from round here, are you?

Jesus No.

Ramona You sound like you come from Galilee, but ... I don't know it's not quite right ...

Jesus I do come from Galilee - Nazareth - but I lived in Egypt when I was little.

Ramona Ah ... so Mr Galilee, how come you - a God-fearing, upright Jewish man, is asking me for some water. Didn't your Mama and Papa warn you against talking to Samaritan women?"

Jesus Probably! But sometimes parents get it wrong!

Ramona I guess.

Jesus So, any chance of some water?

She gets some water and gives it to him. He drinks with his hands for several seconds

Jesus Thank you. You know, if you knew who I was, it would be you asking me for water.

Ramona Well, I don't know who you are, but I can see you think you're some kind of comedian. You haven't even got a bucket, and this is a very deep well. How can you give me water?

Jesus The problem with your water is that anyone who drinks it soon becomes thirsty again. But if you drink my water, you will never be thirsty again. You see, my water is the water of life.

Ramona Oh, in that case I'll have some of your water, and then I won't have to come back to this well ever again. What a bloomin relief!

Jesus Okay, but can you go and get your husband first.

Ramona I haven't got a husband.

Jesus No, but you have had no less than five husbands, and you live with another man now, but he is not your husband.

Ramona You what? How did you know that?

Jesus You seem to have a bit of a problem, don't you?

Ramona Problem?

Jesus With men.

Ramona Look who are you actually?

No! Don't tell me. Let me guess. You're ... a prophet aren't you, with a side-line in therapy. And being a Jew the next thing is you'll be telling me that all I've got to do is nip off to Jerusalem to worship God, and suddenly everything will be hunky dory, and all my problems will disappear in a trice.

Jesus It doesn't matter where you worship. It's more a case of who and how you worship.

Ramona Look, nice try, but frankly I'd rather take my advice from the horse's mouth as it were. When the Messiah, the Christ comes, then I'll listen to him and I'll do what he says. If you don't mind.

Jesus *[Bursts into howls of laughter.]*

Ramona What's so funny? What did I say that is so funny?

Jesus Sorry! Sorry! It is just that ... well I am the Messiah.

Ramona You? You!

Jesus That's what I meant about my water being the water of life.

Ramona *[They both start laughing now and continue to do so even after the lights have faded out.]*