

From Container of Sharks!

By Don Zolidis

Shirleen and Jerry, a married couple, are presenting their invention to a group of shark-like investors.

SHIRLEEN bursts out – intense and well-prepared.

JERRY enters, looking a bit confused.

SHIRLEEN

Hello Apex Predators! How are you doing today?

Waits for an imaginary response.

Fantastic! Now I love my husband Jerry! Say hi Jerry!

JERRY

Hi Jerry.

SHIRLEEN

Isn't he a stitch! He is SO funny! But you know what's not funny? His SNORING!

JERRY

I don't even realize I'm doing it.

SHIRLEEN

I know! Which is part of the horrible, horrible problem! He falls asleep first every night –

JERRY

Shirleen likes to read her stories in bed.

SHIRLEEN

We're not making this about me, Jerry! This is about you! He falls asleep every night and then it sounds like this!

She makes a ridiculously loud snoring sound.

Actually!

She takes out a microphone or bullhorn and snores as loud as she can into it.

But like right into the side of your face!

She puts it up to Jerry's face. Snores again.

All night long! For hours! And hours! And I need my beauty sleep!

JERRY

She sure does!

SHIRLEEN

Ha ha ha ha quiet Jerry! Sometimes he doesn't know when to stop making noise! Like all night long! Am I right?

JERRY

Am I supposed to say something now?

SHIRLEEN

Do you think you're supposed to say something.

JERRY

I think the key to a happy marriage is just saying, yes, dear. Whatever she's saying? Yes, Dear.

SHIRLEEN

That's because Jerry doesn't take the time to understand or listen to what I'm saying!

JERRY

Yes, Dear.

SHIRLEEN

Now my first solution to the Jerry snoring problem was called "The Other Room!" Ha ha ha. But that had its own problems because it was my crafting room!

JERRY

Shirleen makes bespoke kitten figurines. They stared at me while I slept. Sometimes they talked.

SHIRLEEN

Sometimes that was just me making voices!

JERRY

'I'll kill you, Jerry. I'll kill you dead.'

SHIRLEEN

Ha ha ha we have fun!

JERRY

I stopped sleeping entirely. I would see the kittens in my nightmares. Their big eyes staring at me. Always staring.

SHIRLEEN

So he couldn't sleep in the other room anymore! So what could I do to fix him?

JERRY

She's always trying to fix me.

SHIRLEEN

Because he's so broken!

JERRY

Well I wouldn't say broken –

SHIRLEEN

Ha ha ha I would! Anyway, what to do? So I created this! The snore-destroyer!

Shirleen produces a huge helmet.

Apex predators – I am asking for two hundred thousand dollars for a ten percent stake in snore-destroyer! It works great! Watch!

She settles the helmet on his head. Straps it on.

Now sleep, Jerry.

Jerry does nothing.

She knocks on the side of the helmet.

Go to sleep, Jerry. Shhhhh...

Jerry tries to lie down with the massive helmet on his head.

He's probably still alive in there! Give a thumb's up if you're alive, Jerry.

Nothing happens.

Give a thumb's up if you're alive, Jerry!

Nothing.

He does this sometimes! Little jokes! Such a stitch!

She taps on his helmet again.

He gives a thumb's up.

See?! So, when I go to bed...

She lies down somewhere near him.

I can't hear him at all! And now, with the super snore-destroyer –

She takes out a black blanket or towel and wraps it around the helmet –

I don't even have to look at him! Marriage solved!

She gets back up.

Who needs couples therapy when you don't have to see or hear your husband. Am I right?

Lights down.