

Scene: The kitchen of Frank and Doris' house. There is a table here with two chairs, and a microwave on the counter.

DORIS stands in front of the microwave, a fork in her hand. There is a frozen dinner on the counter in front of her, and she is reading off the back of the frozen dinner box.

DORIS

(reading, and suiting the action to the word)

“Pull back film. Stir potatoes. Rearrange ham.” Rearrange ham?

Enter FRANK, carrying a newspaper.

FRANK

What are you doing?

DORIS

Rearranging the ham.

FRANK

What?

DORIS

Trying to figure out how you're supposed to rearrange a couple of slices of ham.

FRANK

Let me see.

DORIS

There, it says right there on the box, “rearrange ham”.

FRANK

Well, you... uh....

DORIS

Exactly. It's two itty bitty slices of ham, in a small space that they just fit in. What, exactly, are you supposed to do with them?

FRANK

Well, you know, you just... Nope, I don't know.

Frank sits down at the table and opens the paper.

DORIS

I suppose I could put the bottom one on top.

FRANK

I guess.

DORIS

But that's switching the ham, not rearranging it. Why don't they just say "switch the two pieces of ham"?

FRANK

I don't know.

DORIS

"Rearrange" implies arranging them in some sort of new or different way.

FRANK

Honey, it's a TV dinner, not an art project.

DORIS

Oh, I know. It's just so inexact.

FRANK

I know.

DORIS

They should say what they mean on the box.

FRANK

Mm-hm.

DORIS

How is the consumer supposed to cook this properly without exact instructions?

FRANK

Well, right now you're not cooking it at all.

Doris puts the dinner in the microwave and pushes the start button.

DORIS

There. If you get trichinosis because it's not cooked properly, don't come crying to me.

FRANK

I won't.

DORIS

Oh, damn. (she pauses the microwave and takes the tray out). With all that talk I forgot to rearrange it.

She rearranges the ham, puts the tray back in the microwave and re-starts it.

There. Artistically rearranged.

FRANK

Well, that's a load off my mind.

DORIS

Did you call the accountant?

FRANK

Hm?

DORIS

Don't you "hm" me. I asked you last week to call the accountant. Did you?

FRANK

It's on my list.

DORIS

Frank—

FRANK

I will put it on the calendar for tomorrow. Two pm, call the accountant.

DORIS

I just don't want it to get away from us. (a pause, and a subtle change in tone). What about the lawyer?

FRANK

It's on my list.

DORIS

Frank—

FRANK

It's on my list.

DORIS

Frank, we have to talk about it.