

Mel from **The Prisoner of Second Avenue** by Neil Simon

It's 1975. It is morning and Mel is seated at the kitchen table. He is a neurotic middle-aged New Yorker who has recently been fired from his advertising job after 22 years, – forcing his loving wife, Edna, to become the couple's sole breadwinner. Feeling emasculated, he begins to fall into a depression. Edna, who has just come home from work (night shift) and before she goes to bed she asks Mel ' What'd you do today?'

MEL:

I took a walk today. From the bedroom into the living room. Then I walked back into the bedroom. Once I went to the kitchen for a glass of water. I'd say that was my high peak of the day. You want to hear about the rest of my morning? I looked out the window three times, I listened to the radio, and I went to the toilet. Which is still flushing. But I didn't jiggle it because I know you like to do that when you come home. Last night. Was last night the night before this morning? I get them all mixed up because my life is so busy.

I've been to the zoo every day for 34 days. Every time I pass the monkeys they say " he's here again, he's here again. "

Your mother called. We exchanged recipes. NO! No one else called! I'm not a phone answering service. You want me to answer the phone. Hire me. I could use the work.

Delta Airlines is looking for hostesses. But I don't want to be away from the house that much. Don't you agree?

What time would you like breakfast tomorrow? There's no problem Edna, I'm up I, I've got the eggs here in the house and I steal the milk from the people next door, And if I'm real quick I can get the New York Times too. I'm just trying to contribute, Edna, just trying to do my share.