

Excerpt from ***YOU NEVER FINISH ANYTHING***

A Ten-minute comedy for one man and one woman, by Gary Young.
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VIOLET, age 43, is married to STANLEY, age 45. Their marriage has been one of convenience, with familiarity and real love mixed in. They are at home.

VIOLET

You never finish anything you start. Do you know that? You know that. I'm sure you know that.

STANLEY

Uh...

VIOLET

Never. Not once. Not ever. I can't even remember a single time when you said, "Well, it's done," or "Violet, look at this completed...thing, here. It's frustrating, you know. I mean, really, well, you know, like, well, you just don't finish anything.

STANLEY

I...

VIOLET

Like one time, I tried to show you, something, I forget what, like, I don't know, like a thing that was...oh, yeah, it was the bug. The bug that was crawling up the wall. This huge bug. I think it was a cockroach, but the big kind, like you see in Florida, and it was crawling, and I said to you, "Stanley, get the bug," or something like that. And you said, "Okay, Violet, I'll get the bug." And you didn't. You could have, but you waited, and it, the bug, got away. I think it's still probably crawling up and down the walls, on the inside where you can't see it, and pooping up and down the walls, and everything, and it's all because you didn't get it. You waited. You didn't hardly even start that one, and certainly didn't finish the job. It's disgusting, the bug. And you, for that matter.

STANLEY

Well...

VIOLET

Yeah. But that is not the worst thing that you didn't do. Remember the dinner? The one with my mother? The one that you were supposed to get the food and cook it, and then I'd serve it, but at least you were supposed to do that. You "forgot" to get the food, but I don't really think you forgot. You hate my mother, I know that. But that aside, once I, not you, but I, got the food, the phone rang and I didn't see you for

an hour. You said it was important, but what is more important than feeding my mother, especially at a time of her life like that. You should be ashamed. But you probably aren't. Are you?

STANLEY

N...

VIOLET

Stop. Don't even. You know what really hurts? Oh! Forget that! You know what you did yesterday... didn't do...well, did but didn't? Guess. The car! You promised to wash the car, with the bird poop and all. The big glob on my windshield especially. Well, you got the glob, I'll give you that, but the rest, and the yuck on the door handle is still there. When just are you gonna get around to getting to that, huh? You could have taken care of it all at once, but you decided to do it one step at a time, and now what. Now nothing. Now still the bird poop is on the car, most of it, and all the other crap. You must think I love driving around in an embarrassing pig sty.

STANLEY

W...

VIOLET

Yeah, and another thing. Long as we're on the subject. Are you even listening here?