

Not Willing**A radio play****By****Joy Meekings and Jan Storey****CHARACTERS**

Charles Henderson	Solicitor, about 50, sophisticated voice
Eddie Ryan	Husband, about 40, ocker voice
Sally	Wife number 1, aged late 30s
Laura	Wife number 2, aged late 30s
Sophie	Female voice

Synopsis

When Eddie decides it's time he made a will, his solicitor Charles is shocked to hear that Eddie has two wives. To complicate matters, unbeknownst to Eddie and Charles, the wives, Sally and Laura, have met by chance in a yoga class and become good friends. Both women long for a baby but will they find out the truth about Eddie?

2024
Joy Meekings and Jan Storey

SCENE 1: INT. LAWYERS OFFICE

AUDIO Intercom buzzing

CHARLES Yes Sophie.

AUDIO: Female voice saying: *Mr Eddie Ryan is here to see you Mr Henderson*

CHARLES Thank you. Send him in.

AUDIO: Door opening

CHARLES Come in Mr Ryan. Please take a seat. I'm Charles Henderson.

EDDIE Thanks, Charlie. Call me Eddie. No need for formals.

CHARLES Certainly. Now, what can I do for you today?

EDDIE I want you to write me will.

CHARLES Well, you've come to the right place. Wills and inheritance are my area of expertise. Do you mind if I take some notes as we talk?

EDDIE No worries. But it's complicated. It's me wives, ya see. I don't want 'em fighting over me money when I'm gone.

CHARLES Wives? You have more than one?

EDDIE Well, kind 've. Maybe. You see I married Sally in Vanuatu and I'm not sure if it were official like. We got a bit of a certificate but I lost it.

CHARLES Interesting. Do go on. Wife number 2?

EDDIE Well you'd be talking about Laura. We got married in Bangkok.

CHARLES I must caution you Eddie, bigamy is a serious criminal offence in Australia.

EDDIE I'm no criminal Charlie. Never stole a thing in me life.

CHARLES Bigamy means having two wives at the same time.

EDDIE Oh, right. The thing is Charlie, they don't know about each other, but when I fall off me perch, they might find out. Know what I mean?

CHARLES Yes. That is a distinct possibility. *(pause)* May I enquire as to your living arrangements?

EDDIE I've told 'em both I'm a FIFO worker – you know, fly in and fly out.

CHARLES I see.

EDDIE Clever ain't it. I get to spend two weeks with Sally then two weeks with Laura and everyone's happy.

CHARLES But if you're not a FIFO worker Eddie, what do you do for a living?

EDDIE No money, no honey, eh! A bloke needs a lot of dosh to have two wives. I've got me own trucking business, Charlie. Lot of money in moving stuff.

AUDIO Jaunty music

SCENE 2: INT. SALLY'S HOUSE

AUDIO Door opens, closes loudly

EDDIE *(Calling out)* Sally, I'm home!

AUDIO Footsteps

SALLY *(Excited)* Eddie. I've missed you so much!

EDDIE Give us a hug and a kiss then.

SALLY Ooh. I can tell you've missed me too.

EDDIE & SALLY *Both giggle*

SALLY They say absence makes the heart grow fonder.

EDDIE Makes other things grow fonder too! *(Laughs loudly)*

SALLY Looks like an early night tonight!

EDDIE Too right. *(pause)* Hey, I got you that dark blue yoga mat you wanted.

SALLY Blue? Couldn't you find any purple?

EDDIE Oh. Sorry darls. I thought you wanted blue.

SALLY *(Jokingly)* Hope you're not confusing me with someone else.

EDDIE I'd never do that. What did you say your name was again. Sally, wasn't it?

SALLY Very funny, Eddie. *(Pause)* Hey, remember how I told you about Laura from yoga.

EDDIE Ah, yep.

SALLY We've become really good friends. And you won't believe it. Her husband's name is Eddie and he's a FIFO worker, same as you.

EDDIE *(Coughs and splutters)* Crikey!

SALLY You OK?

EDDIE Just a tickle.

SALLY They've been trying to get pregnant for ages like us, but no luck so far.

EDDIE Fun trying though.

SALLY That's what Laura's Eddie reckoned. *(Pause)* Pretty insensitive thing to say.

EDDIE He probably meant no harm. Maybe his jocks are too tight.

SALLY Eddie. Be nice. *(pause)* They actually live close by. How about we have them over for a barbie.

EDDIE Could be tricky darls. Our schedules could clash.

SALLY Oh. I hadn't thought of that. I'll check with Laura.

AUDIO **Jaunty music**

SCENE 3 **INT. LAWYERS OFFICE**

AUDIO **Intercom buzzing**

CHARLES Yes Sophie.

AUDIO: Female voice saying: *Mr Eddie Ryan is here to see you Mr Henderson*

CHARLES Come in Eddie. Good to see you.

EDDIE You too Charlie.

CHARLES Well, I have some good news for you.

EDDIE Good-o.

CHARLES I've made enquiries on your behalf at both the Vanuatu and Thai Embassies and neither have any record of you being married.

EDDIE Ya kidding me. Really. I'm not married to either Laura or Sally?

CHARLES Correct. That means you can't be charged with bigamy.

EDDIE Phew. *(Pause)* Best I don't tell 'em though. Don't want to upset the little ladies.

CHARLES No, I guess not. *(Pause)* Now we can get on to the matter of your will. I have prepared a draft following your instructions. But there is something I need to clarify. There are no provisions included in the event you have any children.

EDDIE Oh, no probs there. I took care of that side of business years ago. Had the snip. Know what I mean?

CHARLES Do you mean a vasectomy?

EDDIE Yeah. That's the one - there'll be no little surprises for me. A dog maybe. But kids. No thanks, mate.

AUDIO **Jaunty music**

SCENE 4 INT. YOGA STUDIO

AUDIO **Women's voices chattering. Voice calling *See you next week***

SALLY Terrific yoga session. Did you enjoy it, Laura?

LAURA Sure did. Adam's such a great teacher.

SALLY He's so flexible. He's amazing.

LAURA And he's a hottie. The poses he can do are seriously crazy.

SALLY They are. By the way, I've been thinking about us wanting kids.

LAURA Me too. We've both been trying for ages without success and our biological clocks are ticking.

SALLY Very loudly. Thing is, we've both been checked and know the problem isn't us. So, there's really only one conclusion.

LAURA You're right. It must be our Eddies.

SALLY And, for some unknown reason, both our guys are reluctant to get checked.

LAURA The question is what can we do about it?

SALLY Would you consider a donor?

LAURA You mean one of those online services where you get to pick the father?

SALLY Hmm. I was thinking more of someone we know.

LAURA One of my work colleagues went down that path and now she's a mum.

SALLY Lucky her. I'm desperate enough to try anything.

LAURA So am I. But who do we ask?

SALLY What do you reckon about Adam?

LAURA We could ask him. We've got nothing to lose.

SALLY He'd make good looking babies, too.

SALLY & LAURA *Both laugh*

AUDIO **Jaunty music**

SCENE 5 INT. LAURA'S HOUSE

AUDIO **Door opens, closes loudly**

EDDIE *(Calling out)* Laura you beautiful thing, I'm home!

LAURA Thank goodness. It's been a long two weeks.

EDDIE I know love, but I've got a surprise lined up for you.

LAURA (*Drawn out*) Aww. What is it? What is it?

EDDIE I'm taking you to a dog breeder's joint to pick out our little fur baby.

LAURA Really. What breed? It will need to be kid friendly – you know just in case we get pregnant.

EDDIE A golden retriever. What do you reckon. They're easy-going and laid-back. Bit like me!

LAURA Ha. Ha. Do I get to choose which pup?

EDDIE You get first pick of the litter. Not like a kid where you've got no choice what you get!

AUDIO Cheerful music

SCENE 6 **EXT. IN A PARK**

AUDIO **Bird calls, sounds of nature, dog yapping in distance**

SALLY This is a lovely park, Laura. Perfect for Monty's first day out. Look how well he's walking on a lead.

LAURA Aw. Who's a good boy then.

AUDIO **Monty yaps a few times**

LAURA He's starting obedience classes next week.

SALLY Pity they don't have obedience classes for husbands.

SALLY & LAURA *Both laugh*

LAURA Still can't believe we're both pregnant.

SALLY I know. After trying for so long it's hard to take in.

LAURA And all that worry we had about asking Adam to be our donor and he didn't even hesitate - just agreed. Namaste, Adam. Namaste.

SALLY Plus there's another bonus. Our babies are due in the same week!

LAURA So, when are you telling your Eddie the good news?

SALLY He's home this week. I was planning on telling him tonight. What about you?

LAURA My Eddie is back at the end of next week. I'll tell him then.

SALLY To be honest, I'd like a full-time father for the baby but the FIFO money is too good to give up.

LAURA Exactly. But at least we can help each other with the babies.

SALLY Hey. I've just had a thought. My Eddie is at home. Would you like to come and meet him?

LAURA That would be terrific.

SALLY Excellent. I'm sure he'd love to meet you.

LAURA What do you reckon Monty. Do you want to go and meet Eddie?

AUDIO **Monty yaps twice**

THE END

AUDIO **Lively upbeat music**