

REMARKABLE INNOVATIONS

by Fred Coppersmith

An infomercial and all the cheesiness that implies. TED and JANET are on stage. They are much too happy to be there. JANET is standing behind a table, on top of which sits a strange looking contraption. Both TED and JANET speak directly to audience/camera.

TED

Hello, and welcome to Remarkable Innovations! I'm Ted Tederson, and this is my lovely assistant, Janet!

JANET

Say, Ted?

TED

Yes, Janet?

JANET

What's this odd-looking contraption you've got on the table over here?

TED

Well, Janet --

JANET

Yes, Ted?

TED

It's funny you should ask that. You see, that odd-looking contraption as you call it is actually today's Remarkable Innovation!

JANET

You don't say!

TED

I do say, Janet! That's the Comp-o-Matic 9000!

JANET

Wow!

TED

Exactly, Janet! You see, we're not entirely sure what it is or where it comes from, but we do know that it's powered by uranium, and we think maybe it was stolen from a government lab.

JANET

Wow! That's neat, Ted! And that would certainly explain this strange and uncomfortable yellow glow!

TED

Not to mention all the dizzy spells you've been having lately, huh, Janet?

JANET

And how! But, Ted --

TED

Yes, Janet?

JANET

What does this Remarkable Innovation do?

TED

Well, Janet --

JANET

Yes, Ted?

TED

There's very little the Comp-o-Matic 9000 can't do. You see, thanks to the awesome magic of "nuclear radiation", there are quite literally a million and one different household uses for this amazing contraption.

JANET

Wow! How many uses?

TED

A million and one, Janet.

JANET

Wow, Ted! That's a lot!

TED

It sure is, Janet! And that's why it's the perfect thing to have around the house whenever company comes over! The radiation sickness might be a nightmare, but this puppy is a dream in the kitchen!

JANET
Wow! But, Ted --

TED
Yes, Janet?

JANET
I can't believe the Comp-o-Matic
9000 can do everything! I mean, I
bet it can't slice through solid
steel!

TED
Oh, but it can, Janet! It can slice
through solid steel like a hot knife
cutting through butter!

JANET
Wow! That's remarkable!

TED
It sure is, Janet! In fact, just
before the show, the Comp-o-Matic
9000 not only cut through solid
steel, diced a tomato, and mopped
the mess up from the kitchen floor -
- it gave me a vasectomy, validated
my parking, and baked me some
muffins!

JANET
Wow! Blueberry?

TED
You better believe it, Janet!

JANET
Wow! That is remarkable! But, Ted --

TED
Yes, Janet?

JANET
Surely something this remarkable has
to be expensive, right? I mean,
uranium doesn't just grow on trees.
Does it?

TED
No, Janet. You see, we'd all be dead
if it that happened. But even so,
today on Remarkable Innovations, I

am prepared to offer this amazing
contraption for a mere \$99.95!

JANET

Wow, Ted! Did you say \$99.95?

TED

I sure did, Janet! \$99.95. And do
you want to know why?

JANET

I sure do, Ted! Why?

TED

Because I believe in the Comp-o-
Matic 9000, Janet! I believe that
everyone out there should have the
opportunity to experience its beauty
and its wonder.

JANET

Not to mention all the dizzy spells,
Ted. Wooooh!

TED

Right you are, Janet! And for only
\$99.95, those uranium-induced dizzy
spells can be yours!

JANET

That sounds swell! But, Ted --

TED

Yes, Janet?

JANET

What if I don't have \$99.95? What if
I'm some sort of deadbeat living out
on the streets and infested with
bugs? How can I enjoy the Comp-o-
Matic 9000?

TED

Well, Janet --

JANET

Yes, Ted?

TED

I'm glad you asked that, too.
Because right now, if you call the
number at the bottom of your screen,
for a limited time, I'm willing to

offer this Remarkable Innovation,
the Comp-o-Matic 9000 complete with
uranium core and multi-functioning
suction nozzles, for only three easy
payments of \$33.59!

JANET

Wow! \$33.59?

TED

That's right, Janet!

JANET

Wow! Even a deadbeat has to love a
deal like that, Ted! They could earn
the money easy by selling blood or
recycling old bottles and cans!

TED

That's right, Janet! And it's worth
it, too, just for a chance to stand
next to this remarkable Comp-o-Matic
9000 and bask in its tumor-friendly
glow!

JANET

I know I can't wait to buy one!

TED

But wait, Janet, there's more!

JANET

More, Ted? Wow! Is that even
possible?

TED

It is now, Janet! Do you see those
multi-functioning suction nozzles I
mentioned just a moment ago?

JANET

Do I ever, Ted! They look pretty
freaky!

TED

Why don't you stick your hands in
them, Janet?

JANET

Why don't I -
(beat)
What, Ted?

TED

Stick your hands in them! Go on, Janet, I'm sure our viewers at home would love to see you do it!

JANET

Well, I don't know, Ted, but all right.

JANET sticks her arms into the box.

TED

Now I'll just push a few buttons on this handy little remote control I have here...

JANET

Remote control? What's that d--

TED pushes some buttons on the remote. JANET yells out in surprise and pain as if something is happening inside the box. Her arms start to writhe, shaking the box from inside. She desperately tries to remain calm and cheerful, even though she is clearly in pain and even as blood starts to spurt out from the box.

JANET

Oh my god! Ow! Ow! What're you doing to me, Ted?

TED

It's not me, Janet. It's the Comp-o-Matic 9000! You see, right now, it's chopping off your hands, cutting straight through flesh and bone! Remember, folks, here on Remarkable Innovations, we take safety very seriously. Which is why you should never, ever stick your hands inside the Comp-o-Matic 9000! Isn't that right, Janet?

JANET

It sure is, Ted!

Again TED pushes a few buttons on the remote control. JANET stops writhing. The blood stops spurting. She holds up two bloody stumps at the end of her arms. She smiles very weakly.

JANET

Gee, Ted, and I thought the blueberry muffins were amazing!

JANET collapses behind the table.

TED

And they were, Janet! And they were!
Well, that's all the time we have
today on Remarkable Innovations!
Join us next time when we'll shoot
Janet out of a cannon into a brick
wall in order to demonstrate an
amazing new stain-resistant carpet!
Until then, this is Ted Tederson
saying good night!