

SEINFELD

"The Rocket Scientist"

Written by

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"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

GEORGE AND JERRY ARE FINISHING DESSERT.

GEORGE

Let me see if I've got this right.
She's available. She's gorgeous. And
you're telling me you're thinking of
breaking up with her, because she's too
smart?

JERRY

I'm telling you, George, the woman is a
rocket scientist.

GEORGE

Aren't you getting just a little
carried away here?

JERRY

I'm telling you, George, she's a rocket
scientist.

GEORGE

Maybe exaggerating just a little,
Jerry?

JERRY

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

Listen. We sit down in the restaurant. And she asks about my work. And I give her this spiel about my gig last weekend. Even throw in a few jokes. I figure, she'll be real impressed that I played a student union in Urbana, Illinois. And then I say, "And what do you do?"

GEORGE

And?

JERRY

And so she says, "I'm a consultant to the Harvard Jet Propulsion Laboratory." And I say, "Oh really? What do you consult on?" And she says, "Oh, you know, science. . . . Science about rockets."

ELAINE WALKS IN.

ELAINE

Sorry I'm late. Give me a synopsis.

GEORGE

That woman Jerry started going out with. Turns out she's too smart.

ELAINE

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

Too smart? I thought you said she's
dating Jerry.

JERRY

No, really, I feel like I'm an idiot
when I'm around her.

ELAINE

Jerry, come on. I mean, what is she,
some sort of rocket scientist?

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

INT. KRAMER'S APT. - DAY

KRAMER BURSTS IN, THEN SPINS AROUND TO REVEAL HE'S HOLDING A BABY DOLL AND NURSING IT WITH A BOTTLE. HE THEN HOLDS THE BABY STRAIGHT UP AND BURPS IT.

JERRY

What are you doing?

KRAMER

Practicing. I'm going to be a father.

JERRY

You. You're going to be a father? You haven't had a date in months.

KRAMER

It's that lesbian couple I know.

Remember them? From down the block?

Myrna and Myrna. They've asked me to be the father of their child.

JERRY

Myrna and Myrna want you to be the father of their child?

KRAMER

Yes, it's a great honor. I mean, they could have chosen anyone. They could have chosen you, Jerry. (turns to George) Or you, George. But no, out

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

of all the men they know, they chose me as the vehicle for expressing their propagational instincts.

Still, it was a tough decision. I was up all night thinking about it. But this morning, when I arose, alone, and I surveyed the empty shell that is my life, I realized it's my destiny to have a child. To pass on everything I know to the next generation.

JERRY

Kramer, are you sure you have the skills to take care of a child?

KRAMER

I don't have to have the skills. That's the beauty of it all. Myrna and Myrna will be the parents. I'll visit on weekends, a father but sort of like an uncle.

JERRY

Have you thought through all the implications?

KRAMER

What do you mean?

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

JERRY

Well, I don't want to sound old-fashioned, but are you sure it's healthy for a child to grow up with two parents named Myrna?

NOISES IN THE HALLWAY.

KRAMER

Shhh. Here they are now. They're coming over to talk about the details.

KRAMER MOTIONS THEM INTO JERRY'S APARTMENT

MYRNA 1

(shaking Jerry's hand) Hi. I'm Myrna.

MYRNA 2

(shaking Jerry's hand) Myrna.

JERRY

I hear you're going to be Myrnas. I mean mothers.

MYRNA 1 AND MYRNA 2

Yup.

JERRY

Congratulations.

MYRNA 1.

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

Actually, I'll be the mother. She'll
be the mama. (pointing) Mother.
Mama. That way, it won't be the least
bit confusing for the child.

JERRY

I can see that.

MYRNA 1

(hugging Myrna 2) Mother.

MYRNA 2

(hugging Myrna 1) Mama.

MYRNA 1 AND MYRNA 2

(hugging Kramer) Da-da.

CUT TO:

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

JERRY

So, we're sitting there, waiting for the check to come, and she says to me, "So, are you involved in any eleemosynary endeavors?"

GEORGE

She says that?

JERRY

Can you believe it? She asks if I'm involved in any eleemosynary endeavors.

GEORGE

What kind of question is that? On a first date?

JERRY

I had no idea what it meant. And of course I couldn't ask.

GEORGE

No way you could ask. Not on a first date! Not with a rocket scientist!

JERRY

So I looked at my watch, and I said, very politely, "Will you excuse me? I

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

promised my mother I'd call her before
9:00. I'll be back in just a minute."

GEORGE

Very skillful. Very well done.

JERRY

And then I ran to the phone, and tried
to call everyone I could think of who
has a dictionary. I tried you. I
tried Elaine. Nada.

GEORGE

Speaking of Elaine, where is she?

JERRY

(looking at watch) I don't know. She
said she'd be here by now.

CUT TO:

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

THE WAITERS ARE RESTLESS, TRYING TO GO HOME. MOPPING THE FLOOR, PUTTING UP CHAIRS. ELAINE KEEPS LOOKING AT HER WATCH. HER DATE, HOWEVER, HAS A CALCULATOR OUT, AND HE'S ADDING UP THE CHECK FOR THE THIRD TIME.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

GEORGE

We were both at Kramer's, trying to convince him to forget this "Cosmo Junior" thing.

JERRY

You don't think he should have the kid?

GEORGE

No, no. The name. He told us if we didn't come up with a name he liked better, he would insist on Cosmo Junior.

JERRY

(alarmed) Cosmo Junior? That's awful.

GEORGE

You think that's bad? The women are dead-set on Myrna.

JERRY

So what could've happened to Elaine?

GEORGE

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

I don't know. She said she'd be here
in time for dessert.

CUT TO:

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

TOM IS STILL WORKING FURIOUSLY WITH A POCKET CALCULATOR.
ELAINE IS LOOKING AT HER WATCH.

TOM

Elaine, I don't remember the soup being
five-ninety-five. Do you? (turning)
Excuse me, waiter, could you please
bring me a menu?

ELAINE

I promised Jerry and George I'd meet
them at nine.

TOM

This'll only take a minute..

CUT TO:

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

GEORGE

So why didn't you call Kramer's,
anyway?

JERRY

For a dictionary? Kramer? When was
the last time you saw him reading
anything that didn't have a bar code on
the cover?

GEORGE

So what did you do?

JERRY

For a couple of minutes, I lurked
outside the kitchen door, asking the
waiters if they knew what eleemosynary
meant. I figured one of them had to be
an out-of-work Ph.D.

GEORGE

And?

JERRY

And nothing.

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

GEORGE

Next time, you ought to take her for dinner in one of those cafes that's attached to a bookstore. That way you could pick up a dictionary on the way to the men's room

JERRY

Maybe we should just take a table at the New York Public Library, and have Chinese delivered.

GEORGE

Why didn't you just call the library? They love when people ask them to look stuff up.

JERRY

It was 9:00 at night.

GEORGE

In New York it was 9:00 at night. But in Alaska, 3:00 p.m.

JERRY

Call a library in Alaska?

GEORGE

Yeah, what's the big deal? You dial the area code for Alaska, ask for the number of the Anchorage Public Library,

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

and voila. You're talking to some perky librarian, just coming back from lunch.

JERRY

Well, maybe a rocket scientist would have thought of that.

GEORGE

What did you do?

JERRY

I went back to the table, and I said, "Now, where were we?" thinking she might rephrase the question. And she said, "We were discussing eleemosynary activities."

GEORGE

(looking at watch) I wonder where Elaine is.

CUT TO:

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

TOM

Did you have the salmon tart or the
salmon tartare?

ELAINE IS FILING HER NAILS.

TOM (CONT'D)

The tartare was four-eighty, whereas
the tart was only three-seventy-five.

CUT TO:

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

JERRY (CONT'D)

So I said, "Oh, right, eleemosynary activities." Endeavors, she changes to activities. But eleemosynary? Nothing. So there's this silence and then she says, "Oh, I'm sorry. It means 'charitable.'" She wanted to know if I do like any charitable stuff, you know, like volunteer work.

GEORGE

Charitable? Eleemosynary means charitable?

JERRY

Charitable.

GEORGE

So why didn't she just say charitable?

JERRY

You know how people are who like to use big words.

GEORGE

Goddamn rocket scientists.

JERRY

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

But wait, it gets worse. It wasn't enough just to make me look stupid. She had to turn the screw. She said, "So what did you think eleemosynary meant?"

GEORGE

How are you supposed to answer that question?

JERRY

Exactly. I mean, there's no answer to that question. What did you think it meant? So I made a joke. I said, "I don't know, but it sounds like something a pervert might do with a fish."

GEORGE

And?

JERRY

And nothing. Not even a chuckle. So she went from thinking I'm just stupid, to thinking I'm stupid and crude.

CUT TO:

INT. KRAMER'S APARTMENT - DAY

ELAINE

So, Kramer, I don't want to pry, but
are you and Myrna gonna, you know . . .

KRAMER

Huh?

ELAINE

You know, are you and Myrna gonna work
together on this project?

KRAMER

Work together?

ELAINE

It's like when we hire consultants to
help us at J. Peterman.

KRAMER

(deliberately) Peterman?

ELAINE

Yeah, it's just like you're a Peterman
consultant. Some of our consultants
come over, and we work together.
Others, you know, they do their work at
home, and then when they're done, they
bring it over.

KRAMER

Huh?

ELAINE

Yeah, you're sort of like a consultant on this parenting thing, Kramer. So I was wondering if you were, you know, going to work with Myrna, or if you were going to work alone at home and send it over when it's ready?

CUT TO:

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

GEORGE

So you have to figure out some way to let her know you're smart.

JERRY

Smart, yes, but that's not enough now. I've got to convince her I'm smart and classy.

GEORGE

What about your S.A.T. scores? You could think of some way to casually work your S.A.T. scores into a conversation.

JERRY

My S.A.T. scores? That was 20 years ago. I can't even remember my S.A.T. scores.

KRAMER

Uh-oh?

JERRY

Uh-oh? Why uh-oh?

KRAMER

Because haven't you ever noticed that everybody who did really well on the

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

S.A.T.'s remembers their scores? And everyone who didn't do so well somehow can't remember.

JERRY

No, I can't say I've ever noticed that.

GEORGE

It's true. The mind forgets that which is too humiliating to remember. I would go so far as to postulate that people who got under one thousand on the S.A.T.'s can never remember their scores.

JERRY

I don't believe that.

GEORGE

It's true. I'll prove it. (turning to the waitress) Excuse me, I'd like another cup of coffee, and, by the way, would you mind telling me what you got on your S.A.T.'s.

WAITRESS

I can't remember. Do you want lemon with that tea?

GEORGE

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

So it's true. If you can't remember your scores, I'm forced to conclude you got under a thousand. And your little rocket scientist will come to precisely the same conclusion!

JERRY

Hold it, hold it. Wait here just a minute.

HE GOES TO THE PHONE AND DIALS, AND THEN WE SEE HIS PARENTS ANSWERING THE PHONE IN FLORIDA.

MOM

Your S.A.T. scores? Suddenly your S.A.T. scores you want me to remember?

DAD

What's going on? Has Jerry decided to go back to college? Tell him this time, he's going to have to get his hair cut, and take a shower once a month. And tell him this time, I'm not paying.

MOM

I really can't remember, Jerry.

JERRY

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

Nothing?

MOM

Well, there was that spring when I didn't go out of the house for a month.

JERRY

The time you became allergic to sunlight?

MOM

There was no allergy, Jerry. I just made that up to spare your feelings. The truth is, all the other mothers on the block were talking about their children's S.A.T. scores, and . . .

JERRY

And?

MOM

And every time I ran into one of those mothers at the supermarket, it'd be "thirteen hundred this." "Fourteen hundred that." And what was I going to say? So I stayed home.

JERRY

That's why you didn't go out?

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

MOM

Thank God, in those days, they still had milkmen. Otherwise, we would have starved.

JERRY

I had no idea my S.A.T. scores were so low.

MOM

Let's just say, Jerry, you were no rocket scientist.

CUT TO:

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

INT. KRAMER'S APARTMENT - DAY

ELAINE

They wanted to know your what?

KRAMER

Myrna and Myrna wanted to know my
S.A.T. scores. They wanted to make
sure Cosmo Junior or Myrna Junior would
be smart.

ELAINE

No kidding. Did you even remember your
S.A.T. scores.

KRAMER

Remember? I have that little green
computer printout, right here on the
wall. Works like a charm on dates.
(he points to a framed certificate on
his wall) Six-eighty math, seven-
twenty verbal. Fourteen hundred total.
Ninety-eighth percentile!

ELAINE

Myrna and Myrna must have been pleased.

KRAMER

They were. They want get to work on
the project this weekend!

ELAINE

Did you find out which kind of
consultant they want you to be?

GEORGE

Oh, yeah. They want me to do my work
at home.

ELAINE

And then send it over? Like by FedEx?

KRAMER

Well, actually, I'm going to do my work
at home, and I'm going to leave it on
my dresser, and they're going to pick
it up.

ELAINE

On the dresser?

KRAMER

Yeay, on the dresser in a thermos. You
know, the thermos I usually use for
iced tea.

CUT TO:

(no 29)

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

GEORGE

Okay, so your mother said you were no rocket scientist. So what?

JERRY

Yeah, so what? She didn't say I shouldn't date a rocket scientist.

KRAMER WALKS IN

GEORGE

What do you want with this woman, anyway? If she makes you so insecure, why not just drop the whole thing?

JERRY

You're right. Maybe I should just forget about her. I mean, dating a rocket scientist? I'm out of my league.

KRAMER

No, no, no, no. If she's brilliant, you've got to do everything you can to win her over. I mean, someday, you're

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

going to want to have kids. And you don't want stupid children, do you?

JERRY

He's right. Have you ever seen smart parents who somehow end up with stupid children? It's a heartbreaker. You never know what to say.

KRAMER

Right. You've got to be fruitful with the smartest woman you can find. It's your duty to the species.

GEORGE

Kramer's right. I read an article somewhere that said intelligence is inherited from the mother.

JERRY

Really? From the mother?

GEORGE

Yeah, it's true. The gene for intelligence is carried on the X chromosome, which is on the egg. The sperm has nothing to do with it.

JERRY

Will you excuse me for a minute?

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

HE WALKS OVER TO THE TELEPHONE AND DIALS.

JERRY

(into phone) Ma, there's something I
think you should know

BACK TO TABLE.

GEORGE

So where's Elaine already?

JERRY

She warned me she was going out with
Tom again. That guy who takes forever
to pay in restaurants.

CUT TO:

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

THEY'RE IN MCDONALD'S. THERE'S AN ANGRY LINE OF ABOUT 20 PEOPLE STANDING BEHIND THEM, TELLING HIM TO HURRY UP.

TOM

I thought the Happy Meal quarter-pounder was a dollar ninety eight. This says a dollar eighty eight.

ELAINE
(ANXIOUS)

Tom, forget about it. They've charged us ten cents too little.

TOM

(offended) Elaine, this is not about the money.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

GEORGE

I've got it. Challenge her to a game of Scrabble. After you kill her at Scrabble, she'll know you're a brainiac.

JERRY

Scrabble? I am good at Scrabble. But do you think one game of Scrabble will do it?

GEORGE

You're right. Better make it best-of-three.

INT. JERRY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

JERRY

So how much longer do we have to spend practicing two-letter words starting with X?

ELAINE

(reading from scrabble dictionary)

X-i, x-u.

JERRY

X-u. What's X-u?

ELAINE

An ancient Chinese coin.

JERRY

X-u? An ancient Chinese coin. That's ridiculous. This whole thing is ridiculous. And that's a ridiculous dictionary. I mean, what kind of dictionary has an ancient Chinese coin, but doesn't even have a useful word like eleemosynary in it?

ELAINE

Jerry, Jerry, Jerry, eleemosynary has twelve letters. You can't make a 12-letter word in Scrabble, so it has no business being in the Scrabble dictionary.

JERRY

Oh, yeah. Well, it's still a ridiculous dictionary. I mean, it probably doesn't even have dirty words, and, for a boy, looking up dirty words is probably the single most important function of a dictionary.

ELAINE

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

Oh, yeah. Well, then you're in for a surprise. For example, if you can't figure out what to do with an "F" . . .

SHE SHOWS JERRY A PAGE FROM THE DICTIONARY.

JERRY

(feigning horror) That's in there? I can't believe it.

ELAINE

As a noun and a verb!

JERRY

Well, who would ever make it, anyway? I mean, you'd look ridiculous making that word in Scrabble. I mean, what if a child walked into the room while you were making that word?

GEORGE

(flipping through a magazine) Oh, here's that article I was telling you about. The one that says intelligence is inherited from the mother.

KRAMER

Can I see that?

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

KRAMER PICKS UP THE MAGAZINE AND ABSENT-MINDEDLY STARTS
READING THE CAMERA FOLLOWS HIM INTO HIS APARTMENT, WHERE WE
SEE HIM PUT THE ARTICLE DOWN ON HIS DRESSER.

CUT TO:

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

EXT. STREET - DAY

JERRY

Excuse me, Sir. I'm taking a poll. Do
you happen to remember your S.A.T.
scores?

MAN

Thirteen hundred.

WOMAN

Twelve-fifty.

MAN

Eleven hundred.

WOMAN

I really can't remember.

MAN

You know, I just can't remember.

WOMAN

A thousand ten. I just squeaked by.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

JERRY

You were right. Nobody who remembered their S.A.T. scores got below a thousand.

GEORGE

Told you. So how's the I.Q. tourney going?

JERRY

Tied up, one game to one. Everything's riding on game three.

GEORGE

When is it?

JERRY

Saturday night. First we're going out to dinner.

KRAMER

Someplace romantic?

JERRY

Actually, I thought we'd try that cute little cafe in the Barnes & Noble.

CUT TO:

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

INT. - CAROLINE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

JERRY AND CAROLINE, A STUNNING RED-HEADED ROCKET SCIENTIST, ARE EATING CHERRY GARCIA OUT OF THE CONTAINER AND PLAYING SCRABBLE.

CAROLINE

You know, I think this is the closest game I've ever played.

JERRY

You're right. I mean, look at that.
(he looks at score sheet) We're tied at 320 each.

CAROLINE

But it's your move. If you can use up your letters, it's game, set, match for Jerry.

JERRY

Yes, but I have the most terrible letters . . .

THE CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON HIS LETTERS. THEY ARE T-R-A. WE SEE HIM REARRANGING THEM INTO R-A-T, THEN A-R-T.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Sorry I'm taking so long. I mean, I've got truly terrible letters. I don't

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

know when I've ever had such awful
letters.

SHE NODS SYMPATHETICALLY AS HE FRANTICALLY REARRANGES HIS
LETTERS

JERRY (CONT'D)

And it's a terrible board. I mean,
there's no place on the board to put
anything.

SHE KEEPS NODDING SYMPATHETICALLY

JERRY (CONT'D)

I mean it's so closed up.

CAROLINE

Well, actually, there's an F right
there that's open. Have you got
anything you can put on the F?

CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON JERRY'S "A-R-T"

A BUZZER GOES OFF IN THE KITCHEN.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

The popcorn's popped. I'll be back in
a minute.

SHE WALKS AWAY.

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

JERRY PICKS UP THE RECEIVER OF THE CORDLESS PHONE NEXT TO HIM, GRABS IT CLOSE TO HIM, AND RUNS INTO THE BATHROOM. HE TURNS ON THE WATER, AND THEN DIALS.

CUT BETWEEN GEORGE IN HIS LIVING ROOM AND JERRY IN CAROLINE'S BATHROOM

GEORGE

So let me see if I've got this. You've got an A, an R, and a T. And you can put them down on the F, and you'll win the game.

JERRY

Yes, yes. But she'll think I'm some sort of creep. I mean, what kind of person wins a Scrabble tournament by making "fart"?

GEORGE

Are you sure you can't spell flatulence? That's the kind of word a rocket scientist could warm up to. But fart?

JERRY

I'll never live it down. I think I'll have to throw the game.

GEORGE

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

You're right. Better you should lose than have her remember you as the man who passed gas at Scrabble.

BACK TO CAROLINE'S LIVING ROOM.

JERRY

(looking forlornly at letters) Too bad. I really can't do anything with these letters. (he turns his letters over) I pass.

CAROLINE

That is too bad.

THE CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON HER LETTERS. SHE HAS U-C-K. SHE BEING PICKING UP THE LETTERS AND MOVING THEM TOWARD THE BOARD.

CAROLINE

I guess I'll be the one to use the "F" then.

WE SEE HER PUT HER LETTERS DOWN, THEN WRITE ON THE SCORE SHEET.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I'm out. Three-twenty for you. Three-forty-four for me.

CUT TO:

(no 44)

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

INT. KRAMER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

MYRNA WALKS IN, PICKS UP A THERMOS ON THE DRESSER, AND AS SHE'S PICKING IT UP SHE NOTICES THE CLIPPING. THE HEADLINE SAYS, "INTELLIGENCE INHERITED FROM MOTHER, SCIENTISTS PROVE."

SHE READS THE ARTICLE. THEN SHE PICKS UP THE THERMOS, AND WE SEE HER WALK INTO THE BATHROOM. THE DOOR CLOSSES, AND WE HEAR A FLUSH.

CUT TO:

INT. JERRY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

JERRY

So I've challenged her to a rematch.
This time, no holds barred. I don't
care if it's a word you can't say on
TV. If it's in here (holding Scrabble
dictionary), I'm putting it down there.

ELAINE

(reading a letter) Can you believe
this? I break up with the guy, and he
sends me a bill. For three dinners, two
movies, and one extra-large popcorn.

JERRY

You're kidding.

ELAINE

(taking a closer look) Hey, wait a
minute. He charged me for the veal
scaloppini. I had the veal tetrazzini.
(she starts doing subtraction) Jerry,
how much is ninety-three-fifty, minus
two-eighty-nine

KRAMER

"THE ROCKET SCIENTIST"

I got a letter, too. Myrna and Myrna changed their minds. It turns out they wanted me for what's up here (knocking on skull). When they found out intelligence is inherited from the mother, they decided to work on this project with someone else.

ELAINE

You mean, like some good-looking moron.

THE PHONE RINGS

JERRY

(walking to the phone) Oh, good.
Maybe it's Caroline. (answering)
Hello. Yes, this is Jerry. Oh, hi,
Myrna. Oh, hi, Myrna. Yes, sure, I
remember you -- both

KRAMER

(holding up thermos) Anyone want some
iced tea?

END