

“Ben’s Shocking Experiment”

(Ben, holding his kite, prepares to step out for the evening)

(To wife, unseen by audience). I’ll be going out for a while now, dear....Yes, I know it’s raining....And, yes, I realize it’s thundering and lightning, too. But I’ve got to keep working on my experiment. After all, until I discover electricity, what good’s the television set?

(Starts toward the door, then stops)....What’s that, dear?....You want me to take out the garbage....But, sweetheart, don’t you realize the sooner I discover electricity, the sooner we can use that trash compactor I got you for Valentine’s Day?

(He starts toward door again, but once more stops)...Now what is it?....No, I haven’t forgotten about those shelves you want me to put up. But once I discover electricity, I’ll be able to use my electric power drill and hang them up in a flash...And speaking of flash, I’d better get out there before this storm passes. You see, this storm is very important to my experiment. Without the lightning, I’d have to write all my notes in the dark!

(Starts to exit once more, but stops) What is it this time?....You want to know why I’m taking along this kite?....Oh, that’s just in case I don’t discover anything. I’ve got to have something to do out there.

Now then, don’t bother me anymore. I’m going to go out there and conduct my experiment, and if my calculations are correct, our new can-opener will be operational by dinnertime! *(He mimes opening the door, then raises his hand in a gesture of confidence.)* To the dawn of a new age! *(He exits offstage. We hear Ben yell.)*
Yeeoowww!

(Ben reenters, out of breath. His hair is standing on end and his clothes are in disarray) Uhhh, dear...you’d better stick with the pop-top cans for awhile. You see, my experiment worked. I did discover electricity. But the real “shock” came when I got this. *(He reaches into his vest pocket and brings out an envelope)*...Our first electric bill!