

HAVE YOU SEEN MY KEYS?

by Jan Peterson Ewen

Monologue - Man (or Woman, Age 21+)

(Upset and frustrated) Have you seen my keys? I left them on the dining room table when I got home last night and now they're gone. *(Pause)* Of course, I'm sure. I remember putting them there when I came in the house. Did you move them? Well, I know they were there last night. I remember, I took all the groceries out of the back seat of the car, used my keys to get in the front door, then came in and threw them on the table before I put the groceries down. Then I unpacked all the freezer food and put it away, put the milk and eggs in the fridge, folded up the bags, and went in to say hi to the kids. We ended up watching the end of the movie together, then I came in to help with dinner. We ate in the kitchen so I didn't move them then. They should still be there! Are you *sure* you didn't move them? *(Carefully)* I'm just saying that you may have picked them up subconsciously, and you may have put them in a drawer someplace, or stuck them in your purse by mistake. You have a tendency to tidy up without thinking, you know. What do you mean, "I must have put them somewhere"? I did! I put them on the table - that's where I left them. Someone else has moved them and now I'm going to be late! *(Pause)* I *did* check the bedroom. I *looked* in the car. I even searched the cushions in the couch. No keys! They were sitting right here on the dining room table and now, someone has thoughtlessly moved them to God-knows-where. *(His emotions escalate.)* This always happens! Every time I'm in a hurry, someone has moved my keys and I have to search for half an hour to find them. Keys just don't get up and walk off by themselves, you know. Someone has to pick them up and move them! It's infuriating! It's exasperating! It drives me crazy! *(In the midst of his tirade, he accidentally pats his coat pocket and feels a bulge. His attitude takes an instant turn as he holds up his keys. Unapologetically.)* Oh. Here they are. See you soon.