

## A Tale of Two Minds

I think that I might enjoy having a split personality. Someone to talk to, perhaps? Let's say we have two minds in the same body. One is called Basil and the other Francine.

Francine is an artist. She especially loves music and marching bands. Basil is into sports and is good at a number of things, but doesn't feel he has found his passion in life.

For many years Francine and Basil existed in the same body, but except for a few nagging suspicions they weren't really aware of each other's existence. This is often the case with multiple personalities. Then one day there wasn't enough food in the house and their hunger ate away the barrier that had separated them for all those years.

When they saw each other they were horrified and screamed for the other to go away. But after a while they realized that they could get more food for their body if they worked together and combined their strengths. For the first time they talked to each other as equals.



Basil, being older but not necessarily wiser, suggested that Francine marry him and come to live with him as one mind. Francine was coy. She liked Basil's mind but wanted to keep her own identity. After some talking back and forth Basil finally agreed to give her a piece of mind to call her own and to call the new mind THEIR mind. With all their cards now on the table, Francine and Basil went to the Graceland Chapel in Vegas and tied the knot to the strains of "All Shook Up" and "Help Me Make It Through The Night" sung persuasively by an Elvis impersonator named Bill.

But rather than move in with Basil right away, Francine wanted some time to organize her belongings and make sure that there would be enough good food for the both of them. Basil thought, "Perhaps I should get my stuff organized too!" He already had some food on order, but it can be hard to straighten out one's pantry when it is already full. So he called the food service company and had his order sent to stay under Francine's care for a while. He then worked hard to prepare a good home for Francine and a shiny new pantry to put both their foods.

It is well known that marriage can be a minefield, and Basil was acutely aware that marrying someone as young as Francine could lead to problems since her mind was not as experienced as his. But he admired her talent and sparkling personality and decided that not only would she help him feel younger but that together they would be able to fill Basil's mind with a constant supply of tasty food.

Basil thought of Dickens, who wrote that slow change was preferable to radical movements that could lead to people losing their heads. Yet any change at any pace will be painful to some. Most new ventures carry the risk of failure, but even worse is staying frozen in place and failing by inaction.

Full of uncertainty, Basil and Francine worked long days and nights to become one mind, hopefully for the best of times, hopefully not for the worst.

