

Funeral Home

Setting: *A funeral home. A single bench will suffice. Background music is sombre and subdued.*

At Rise: *Character One enters and looks around before sitting on bench. There are no other people in the room. Character Two enters and sits at other end of bench. Character Two has a newspaper with the obituary section.*

TWO: Hello

ONE: Oh, hello. *(there is a pause of several moments)*

TWO: Did you know *(glancing down at obit)* Sandy well?

ONE: Not really. But I understand he was a wonderful fellow.

TWO: Fellow? But uh...*(looking at obit again)* I'm quite sure Sandy was a woman *(sliding closer so One can see)* Yes...you see Sandra has gone to be with...

ONE: Of course. You're right. Well I'm quite sure she was an equally wonderful woman.

TWO: No doubt.

ONE: Do you mind? *(indicating newspaper)* Can I see that for a moment?

TWO: Yes, of course. *(hands over the obit)* Usually they have pamphlets at the door but I suppose I was a little early this morning. That's why I always bring the newspaper with the obituary. It's nice to know something about the person. Especially after. You can talk with other people.

ONE: At the tea. When you are having those little sandwiches.

TWO: Yes. *(there is a pause)*

ONE: Oh my goodness. This says Sandy spent her last three years in Cedar Meadows. That's the same retirement home that I'm living in.

TWO: (*leaning in to look*) Cedar Meadows? (*beat*) You live in Cedar Meadows?

ONE: Yes.

TWO: What a coincidence. So do I. What room?

ONE: 109.

TWO: 216. I'm one floor up. I've never seen you. You'd think I would have met you on the elevator or something.

ONE: I'm on the ground floor. Never take the elevator.

TWO: Well, now we've got a connection....with Sandy (*pause*) What was she like?

ONE: I have no idea. I don't even recognize the picture.

TWO: Well, they always use flattering photos. It says here she was 80, so this photo was taken a long time ago. When I go I hope they use the photo of me as a ball player. Cap on a rakish angle. I love that photo. Always takes me back to my youth when I look at it.

ONE: Isn't it sad that I've been living in the same building as this woman, as Sandra, for three years and I never met her. (*Beat*) Mind you, I haven't met that many people. My daughter says it's because I don't try...`she`s probably right.

TWO: I'm the same. I know the names of the people I sit with at meals, but that's about it. My kids are on me about it all the time. "Dad, why aren't you playing bridge....you love bridge? Why aren't you going on the bus trips?"

ONE: Mine are the same. Funny. When they were kids I was always trying to get them them to join teams or clubs. Now it's their turn. (*beat*) Which meal time have you got?

TWO: I take the early meal so I can be back to my room for Wheel of Fortune.

ONE: I watch that. I take the late meal and eat after the show.

TWO: And Jeopardy. Do you watch Jeopardy?

ONE: No. I'd miss dinner. (*looking around at the empty room*) It's awfully empty in here. Do you think anyone else is coming?

TWO: I hope so. Sandy deserves more of a send off than just the two of us. Is no one else coming from Cedar Meadows?

ONE: I have no idea. (*beat*) There must have been a notice in the common room, but I never go there...too many old people. I prefer to go out and walk.

TWO: Me too. Where do you walk?

ONE: Pretty much anywhere. Downtown. The park. I even go up the steep trail in the mountain park once a week. (*beat*) It's funny. I love to be around people and to be part of what they are doing, and I love to talk to other people when I am walking, but I have difficultyyou know.....joining in. I guess I'm a watcher, not a joiner-inner. That's why I love these events. The Celebrations of Life. I know it sounds horrible but you can feel as though you are part of something for a little while and still be by yourself.

TWO: I know just what you mean. And of course the tea is always nice. (*beat*) Doesn't it seem odd that there are no flowers? Can I see that obituary again?

ONE: Of course. Sorry.

TWO: What day is it?

ONE: Let's see. Breakfast was oatmeal.....(*thinking*) that means this is TuesdayTuesday. (*Looking at the paper*) No wonder Sandy is being stood up. She's tomorrow! (*beat*) Today is Dave. But he's not until 2:00. That's why no one is here.

TWO: Did you know Dave?

ONE: Not really. But I understand he was a wonderful fellow. (*laughs*) Listen. Dave's do is not for an hour and a half. Do you want to walk the mall and get a coffee while we wait?

TWO: Love to. (*as they are leaving*) You know, if we went down to the office, I'm sure they'd let you change your meal time...then you could pop on up every once in a while and watch Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy at my place.

ONE: That might be fun. I've always wanted to try the elevator. (*they exit*)

THE END