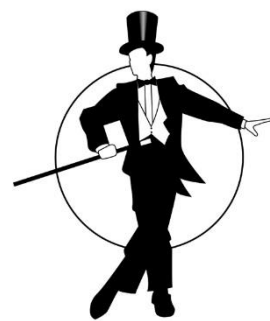


Moving Back

Linda Larocque



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MOVING BACK

By Linda Larocque

CAST

DAD: Elderly male.

LAVERNE: Middle-aged female.

BELLE: Middle-aged female.

Time:

Present day.

Place:

The living room of DAD's modest home.

Setting: There are two odd chairs and an end table. DAD is seated in a rocking chair facing the audience. He is transfixedly watching television and remains that way throughout play except when specified.

At Rise: Sisters LAVERNE and BELLE are talking outside their father's home before entering.

LAVERNE: He knows we're coming, right? And that me and Billy, want to move in?

BELLE: Yeah, I called him about an hour ago. *(pauses and looks around)* Seriously, this place is a dump. It seems to get worse by the week. You sure you want to move back? You might be better off living in the pickup.

LAVERNE: We don't plan on living here forever.

BELLE: I know, just a decade or two.

LAVERNE: Very funny. Come on, it's not our fault we've had a run of bad luck. With both of us losing our jobs and not having any money, it hasn't been easy. But once Billy's divorced, and back on his feet, we'll get married and move out. It's not going to be decades.

BELLE: I don't know, Sis.

LAVERNE: We don't like this arrangement either but right now Billy and I haven't got too many options.

BELLE: Yeah, your life sucks, that's for sure.

LAVERNE: Look, in the meantime, I'll cook for Dad, and Billy will do all sorts of stuff around this place. He's a handy guy. *(beat)* Dad does know Billy's planning on moving in too...doesn't he? You did tell him? Right?

BELLE: Yeah, I think so.

LAVERNE: Whatdaya mean you think so? You either did or you didn't?

BELLE: I mentioned it...sort of.

LAVERNE: Great. That means you didn't. Now I've got to go in there and level with him. Poking a rattlesnake with a stick would be easier. If Mom were alive, it'd be a different story. She'd love having me and Billy move home.

BELLE: Just be nice and agree with everything Dad says. Butter him up a little. It's no secret he doesn't like people around, so present your case nice and easy. Make him think you're doing him a favor and sell him on the idea. You can do this.

LAVERNE: You're right. I can handle him. It's called manipulation...and I'm a master at it!

BELLE: And by the time you get through talking with Dad, he'll be begging you and Billy to move back.

LAVERNE: That's the plan. Poor Mom, no wonder she died first. She had her hands full, didn't she? *(pause)* Geeze, do you hear that TV of his blaring away?

BELLE: The whole county can hear it. Really Sis, I think Dad's gonna go for this idea. He might feel safe with you and Billy here all the time. This could be a good move for everyone. You know, a blessing in disguise.

LAVERNE: Stop the flattery and let's just go in and get it over with. Is he gonna have lunch for us?

BELLE: I think so. *(pause)* When were you two planning on moving in?

LAVERNE: Tonight. Billy's got the pickup loaded and we're ready. After their big fight yesterday, his ornery brother told us we had to be out in 24 hours.

BELLE: (*she and LAVERNE enter*) Hey Dad, here we are. Whatcha watching?

DAD: (*waves his arm, continues sitting and looking straight out facing audience, watching TV*) Shhhhhhhh. Here's the good part.

LAVERNE: The volume sure works on your TV. It's really loud. We could hear it outside.

DAD: Shhhhhhhh.

BELLE: Can you turn it down a little?

DAD: No. I like it loud.

LAVERNE: But it's hard hearing you.

DAD: Then don't talk.

LAVERNE: (*to BELLE*) Did you say he was making lunch for us?

BELLE: I thought so.

LAVERNE: It doesn't look like it.

BELLE: What are we having for lunch, Dad?

DAD: Oreos.

BELLE: (*to LAVERNE*) Oreos? What's that supposed to mean?

LAVERNE: It means all he's got for us to eat is Oreos, I guess. He's getting weird.

BELLE: (*loud, directed to DAD*) Are you saying the only thing you've got to eat is Oreos?

DAD: Shhhhhhhh. (*pause*) I don't cook anymore.

BELLE: You never told me that! So what do you eat these days?

DAD: Shhhhhhhh.

BELLE: (to LAVERNE) I'm going to check out the kitchen. (exits)

LAVERNE: Whatcha watching, Dad?

DAD: *Finding Big Foot*.

LAVERNE: I don't think I've ever watched...

DAD: (interrupts) You believe in this?

LAVERNE: I don't know. (beat) Actually, Dad, we're here because Belle wants to talk with you. Something's come up and she thinks I could be a big help to you these days, and so could Billy. You haven't met Billy yet but you're going to love him. Everybody does, well, everybody except his soon-to-be ex-wife, that is. Of course she doesn't like anybody, so...

DAD: (interrupts) I'm telling you right now, you better believe this...(points to TV)

LAVERNE: Me and Billy would like to move in here with you. Just until we get on our feet, that is. It won't be for long. We need to save up some money. We're kinda having it rough. Billy's tried looking for work but it's not easy. Of course getting fired twice last year doesn't help any. It wasn't his fault either. It's just not fair because he's a smart man.

DAD: Shhhhhhhh.

LAVERNE: And you wouldn't have to give up your bedroom for us either. That is unless you wanted to or maybe we could take turns. You know, one week me and Billy could use it and the next week you could. Just an idea is all. Like we always said, you're the boss.

DAD: So you never watched this?

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!