

Crossing the Bridge

Carl Williams





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CROSSING THE BRIDGE

by

Carl Williams

CAST

EVELYN: A senior, long-time actress, outgoing, imaginative, bright personality.

SAM: A senior, widower, construction company owner, pragmatic, reserved.

Place:

A foot bridge in a big city.

Time:

Evening.

Production Note:

No set or scenery is required, though a representation of a bridge may be used.

Setting: An old foot bridge in a big city.

At Rise: SAM and EVELYN enter, strolling slowly side by side but somewhat apart, stopping now and then.

EVELYN: *(trying to make conversation)* Beautiful night, isn't it?

SAM: *(not a conversationalist)* Yeah. Yeah, it is.

EVELYN: I love this old bridge. I don't think it's changed a bit in all the years it's been here.

SAM: *(gives the bridge a closer look)* Yeah, it's a good bridge. Well constructed.

EVELYN: Whenever I cross a bridge, it makes me feel like I'm about to enter a new world.

SAM: Not much point in crossing it if you don't know where you're going.

EVELYN: That's certainly a sensible way of looking at it. But there's always an element of discovery.

SAM: I suppose. You sure you don't want to catch a cab back?

EVELYN: I enjoy walking. You don't mind, do you?

SAM: No, no. I don't mind.

EVELYN: Thank you again for dinner, Sam.

SAM: Sure. Thank you for going out with me. Especially since we hardly know each other.

EVELYN: Even though we've been living together for a year. Living in the same building, I mean.

SAM: Oh, right.

EVELYN: Someone told me you'd been sick.

SAM: Not bad. Just a touch of pleurisy.

EVELYN: Pleurisy? (*sudden thought*) Pleurosis! I should call you Blue Roses!

SAM: Call me what?

EVELYN: You know, from "*The Glass Menagerie*." I played Laura in my high school production.

SAM: I didn't see it.

EVELYN: How could you? We didn't go to the same high school.

SAM: I mean I never saw the play.

EVELYN: You never saw "*The Glass Menagerie*?!"

SAM: You did it in school, huh? Some kind of kids' show?

EVELYN: No, it wasn't a kids' show! Does the name Tennessee Williams mean anything to you?

SAM: Sure. The guy who sang "Sixteen Tons."

EVELYN: That was Tennessee Ernie Ford!

SAM: Oh, yeah. That's right.

EVELYN: Laura is a young woman with a crippled leg, which left her with a crippled spirit, so she became terribly shy and withdrawn. But she starts to come alive when she receives a gentleman caller, who had known her in school and called her Blue Roses after she had pleurosis. See, he misunderstood what she said.

SAM: He thought pleurosis sounded like blue roses? Really?

EVELYN: It's wonderful play! Of all the roles I played in high school and college and in the years since, Laura meant the most to me. A wounded soul searching for a way to heal.

SAM: (*trying, failing, to be sincere*) Sounds like it was really something.

EVELYN: She collected glass animals, little figurines, lovely and fragile, and her favorite one broke.

SAM: When I was a kid, I collected bottle caps.

EVELYN: Bottle caps?

SAM: Bottles had caps back then.

EVELYN: I know, but why collect them?

SAM: At least they didn't break.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!