

Mothers' Day

Arthur S. Keyser



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ArtAge Publications

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MOTHERS' DAY

By Arthur S. Keyser

CAST

MOLLY SULLIVAN: A seventy-two-year old widow.

JANE MARTIN: Molly's daughter. Jane is forty-eight years old.

ELAINE FISHER: A sixty-eight-year old widow.

PHOEBE SPECTOR: A seventy-one-year old widow.

FRANCIS DOLAN: A seventy-year old widow.

Place

The set is part of the living room of a furnished one-bedroom apartment in a senior retirement hotel where Molly Sullivan lives. The furniture, not fancy, is typical of a contemporary apartment. There are a sofa and two armchairs, some occasional tables, and several lamps. There is a door, which enters directly into the apartment from the exterior hallway.

Time

It is 2:30 on a Sunday afternoon in early spring.

At Rise: MOLLY SULLIVAN is sitting on one of the armchairs. She is fully dressed, with a light sweater covering her shoulders. She is wearing a small hat and gloves. There is a knock on the door.

MOLLY: *(in a raised voice)* Come in. The door isn't locked.

(The door opens and MOLLY's daughter, JANE, walks in. She closes the door.)

MOLLY: It's two-thirty. You're half an hour late.

JANE: Things came up. Sam and I were arguing about where to go on vacation and the kids were fighting about who takes more time in the bathroom.

MOLLY: You used the same story a month ago. You should keep a record of your excuses.

JANE: I've been here less than a minute and you're already starting?

MOLLY: I've had three weeks to rehearse. You've missed the last two Sundays.

JANE: Do you think it's easy? Trying to keep a husband happy, raising two teenagers and...(JANE pauses).

JANE: Why are you dressed that way?

MOLLY: I'm moving out of here.

JANE: That's not funny.

MOLLY: I'm already packed. My suitcases are in the bedroom.

JANE: Where are you going?

MOLLY: I'm moving in with you. It'll be easier for you. You won't have to visit me anymore.

JANE: The house only has three bedrooms. The kids can't share a room.

MOLLY: Sure they can.

JANE: Mom! Nancy is seventeen and Joey is fifteen. They can't sleep in the same room. And we only have two bathrooms. I'm sorry. You can't move in with us.

MOLLY: Then I'll move to a homeless shelter.

JANE: Don't be ridiculous. You have a home...here.

MOLLY: I've already notified the office. I was supposed to be out of here by two o'clock. If you hadn't been late--

JANE: Call the office and tell them you've changed your mind.

MOLLY: I won't do that. They'll think I'm crazy.

JANE: You are crazy. Why didn't you talk to me first?

MOLLY: And let you try to change my mind?

JANE: This makes no sense.

MOLLY: It makes sense to me.

JANE: I can't stand here and listen to this craziness.

MOLLY: So don't stand...sit down.

(JANE raises both arms in exasperation and sits down in the other armchair.)

JANE: Why are you doing this?

MOLLY: Because of Phoebe.

JANE: Your best friend?

MOLLY: She's not my friend anymore. I told her to move out of the building, but she refused. So I'm moving.

JANE: Did you have a fight?

MOLLY: If she wasn't so old, I would have hit her.

JANE: My God, Mom! What happened?

MOLLY: She was spreading rumors about me.

JANE: What rumors?

MOLLY: That I was flirting with a new man, who moved in. She already had her eyes on him.

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