

Gin and Tonic

John Clifford



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ArtAge Publications

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FREEVIEW

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by

John Clifford

CAST

OLIVE: A busy, mature research writer who is having a bad day at the office and thinks she has no time for clowns like...

STAN: A lively outgoing oldster who still has the fire in him and takes every "no" as a "maybe."

Time

Present.

Place

Olive's writing space, a sparsely furnished office.

PROPS: Small table, phone, two chairs set apart. Olive needs a compact-mirror, Stan a hat.

(OLIVE is standing by her desk concluding an unpleasant phone call)

OLIVE: No - this is my office number, but that's all right...Is the dentist positive about this? I really don't want to have a root canal, can't he just make the problem disappear? ...All right. This is already a bad week so let's get it over with. Friday at ten. See you Friday. *(sets phone down)* Darn! Darn, darn, damn. *(Using her compact-mirror, she opens her mouth wide and examines her back teeth.*

STAN enters, wearing a jaunty hat; he puzzles a moment before his first words startle her.)

STAN: What are you gaping at?

OLIVE: Uh -I had something in my eye.

STAN: Like what - your tonsils?

OLIVE: No, I was just ... None of your business!

STAN: *(STAN takes off his hat and calmly hangs it on an invisible wall-hanger, where it falls to the floor as he turns back to face her)* Recognize me now?

OLIVE: Didn't you come in here yesterday? Why are you back?

STAN: I wasn't happy with the service.

OLIVE: I didn't offer you any service.

STAN: That's my complaint.

OLIVE: I don't know what you want. Do you have a question?

STAN: This is the Senior Dating Service. I'm a senior, where's the service?

OLIVE: No, no. That's down the hall. *(dismissively sits and turns to her work)*

STAN: What's the motto of your dating service - you may be old but you don't have to be out a date?

OLIVE: *(irritably)* I'm a writer. I write technical manuals. I just had a project cancelled on me. All this research is totally wasted. So what do you want from me?

STAN: The sign down the hall says Dating Service.

OLIVE: The sign is down the hall because that stupid business is down the hall. And I wish you old geezers would stop coming in here.

STAN: My lucky day - I caught you in a good mood.

OLIVE: All right, I was rude. Take my apologies and go.

(STAN doesn't go)

...I'm closing up! ...Do you want something?

STAN: Let's go out and have a gin and tonic.

OLIVE: I don't even know you!

STAN: You're right, we need to get better acquainted. Maybe we should give each other a big hug...Did you know, once you've hugged and kissed a fellow, you can never again regard him as a complete stranger.

OLIVE: I think you're getting stranger by the minute!

STAN: I like mature women. An older woman is like vintage champagne. Bottled up a long time and waiting to pop!

OLIVE: You wish.

STAN: That's true...You keep saying things that make me feel optimistic. I think we're a match. We go together like two sides of a sandwich.

OLIVE: I don't want to be a sandwich. Please - would you leave.

STAN: Before we get acquainted?

OLIVE: I don't want to get acquainted.

STAN: Then why did you invite me in here?

OLIVE: I didn't!

STAN: The sign on your door says Come In.

OLIVE: That is not meant for you.

STAN: It doesn't say everybody but me.

OLIVE: I'll add that tomorrow!

STAN: You made a joke! You're a joker. No wonder I'm getting crazy about you.

OLIVE: You're crazy, period. ...And don't get any ideas. I warn you, I'm an expert at Karaoke.

STAN: You mean Karate.

OLIVE: Whatever.

STAN: Come on - a nice harmless old geezer comes in here, you going to kick him in the groin?

OLIVE: *(a plea)* Just vanish, ok? *(when she looks up, he's still there)* What is it with you?

STAN: Let's talk about that. *(he sits)* Know what I do? I'm a crab-fisherman. I search for crabs. *(using his hands as binoculars, he swings around to her)* Hey, I think I just spotted one!

OLIVE: *(imperiously)* Did I invite you to sit?

STAN: Indirectly.

OLIVE: I did not!

STAN: You did it with your eyes. They gave me that "don't leave me alone" look.

OLIVE: That was a do leave me alone look.

END OF FREEVIEW
You'll want to read and perform this show!