

Roses to Plan

Robin Rice



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ArtAge Publications

Bonnie L. Vorenberg, President

PO Box 19955

Portland OR 97280

503-246-3000 or 800-858-4998

bonniev@seniortheatre.com

www.seniortheatre.com

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Roses to Plan
by
Robin Rice

Cast of Characters

Sura Weckle: Not a spring chicken

Eli Weckle: Her husband

Time: Morning

Place: Brooklyn, New York

(AT RISE: A kitchen table. SURA wears a bathrobe, an apron.)

SURA: Eli Weckle, if you're not in here in three seconds, these two nice eggs-over-light-

(ELI enters.)

You're dressed.

ELI: I am.

SURA: Why are you dressed?

ELI: I'm going out.

SURA: At eight in the morning?

ELI: For a walk.

SURA: By yourself?

ELI: I must.

SURA: You must no such thing.

ELI: You have not had The Urge in a very long time.

SURA: The cantaloupe?

ELI: So long ago.

SURA: Not so. What, Eli? A surprise for my birthday I don't need.

ELI: It's not that.

SURA: For surprises I am too old.

ELI: My darling, for nothing you are old. You are a strong woman.

SURA: You know how I am not. Take off the sweater. Sit. Eat.

ELI: Make like I am still in bed sleeping because... because it is a rainy day and I love to sleep in on rainy days.

SURA: It's a beautiful day. If you are not here, I will put on the coat with the big pockets, go to a store, and permanently borrow something. Perhaps more than a cantaloupe this time.

ELI: I'll give you money.

SURA: What is going on here?

ELI: Nothing even to blink on.

SURA: Good. Eat your eggs.

ELI: This tiny bump on my nose...

SURA: Bump-schmump.

ELI: Dr. Solomon -

SURA: Doctor...?

ELI: You know.

SURA: You saw him?

ELI: I saw him.

SURA: At the grocery.

ELI: No.

SURA: Twenty questions at eight in the morning. You give me gas.

ELI: At his office.

SURA: All the way to Avenue A?

ELI: Last week.

SURA: You don't get enough exercise?

ELI: Monday.

SURA: Monday?

ELI: About the bump. During your nap I went.

SURA: Sneaking out now are we? What else don't I know about my husband? No, I will tell you what I do know. That bump has been on your nose plenty long.

ELI: Too long.

SURA: Suddenly you have to be Mel Torme? Pah! You are one hundred times handsomer than Mel Torme in his wildest dreams.

ELI: It's not how I look.

SURA: Enough. Eat.

ELI: *(softly)* I am not hungry.

SURA: I make new eggs.

ELI: Surabaya -

SURA: You want oatmeal?

ELI: Dr. Solomon tells me to get rid of the lump - bump. *(reluctantly)* At the hospital. *(Pause)*

SURA: "Hospital?"

ELI: Maimonides.

SURA: What does he know?

ELI: It is not healthy to have miscellaneous attachments to your face.

SURA: Since when?

ELI: This I know. This I have read. I have to go now. Allow time, he said.

SURA: They get you inside a hospital they won't let you out.

ELI: I'll sing.

SURA: Don't joke.

ELI: Why would they not let me out?

SURA: It's not a grocery. You don't go in and out like at the Price Chopper.

ELI: I do when my Sura is waiting.

SURA: Tell him come here cut it off. I make a strudel.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!