

Stanley's Choice

Millie Ackley





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STANLEY'S CHOICE

by

Millie Ackley

CAST

STANLEY PINCHER: Sally's Husband

SALLY PINCHER: Stanley's Wife

PETER PAGE: Penelope's Husband

PENELOPE PAGE: Peter's Wife

GERTRUDE HOROWITZ: Owner of Plain & Simple

ACT I

SCENE 1

At Rise: Backyard patio with a round glass top table; umbrella and four chairs. Table is set with four glasses and a pitcher of ice tea. Seated around table are PENELOPE PAGE, a petite, quiet spoken, white haired woman in her mid-sixty's and President of the Garden Club. Her husband PETER, slightly balding, elderly gentleman and Professor of History at Beesley all-girl Academy. STANLEY PINCHER retired auto dealer, tall, outdoorsman. Everyone is laughing! SALLY PINCHER enters; she is a white haired, energetic woman, and retired physical education teacher from Beesley Academy. She is carrying a dish of cookies and some napkins. She places the cookies and napkins in the middle of the table next to pitcher of ice tea. She sits in the un-occupied chair across from STANLEY.

SALLY: What's so funny? What have I missed?

PENELOPE: Oh Sally! Why didn't you let me help you? Here I sit enjoying this beautiful day and your lovely garden while you do all the work.

SALLY: Don't be silly. I wouldn't call cookies and ice tea work! Well, what have I missed?

PETER: You haven't missed anything! Stanley refuses to tell us where we're going. He's being very mysterious, and I must tell you I'm not very good with surprises, especially when it involves my summer vacation. How about a little hint?

STAN: No can do Pete ole boy. This year it's a surprise destination, to celebrate my wife's...uh...birthday!

SALLY: Really? How wonderful!

PENELOPE: Sally, do you know where we're going?

SALLY: Haven't a clue. *(as she examines the cookies and chooses one)* *(to STAN)* Every time I ask, he just smiles.

PENELOPE: Well...Peter's not a good traveler, I think you already know that, and to suggest an unspecified destination...well...he could get a bit grouchy.

PETER: You're no more adventurous than I am!

STAN: Oh come on Pete. Where's that ole pioneering spirit? How long have we known each other?

PETER: At least a decade or two.

STAN: And in that time have you ever known me to steer you wrong?

PETER: *(reluctantly)* Well, no.

STAN: Remember the first time you came into my dealership to buy a car? I could have sold you the most expensive *new* car on the lot, but instead I gave you a sweet deal on a nice little used car, which I might add, you're still driving. So what's the problem?

PETER: A vacation is different. Teaching teenage girls American History for ten months can be nerve wracking. Not that I don't love my job, but I definitely look forward to my summer vacation. I want to relax and unwind, not worry about anything.

SALLY: Peter's right, Stan. I remember when I was the PhysEd teacher at Beesley Academy. Summer vacations were very important to me. If you can remember?
(bites into cookie)

STAN: I do remember and that's why I know you're going to love this place! I've taken the worry out of it and planned the whole thing myself. It's a great place to let go and just be yourself...my family vacationed there every summer and I loved it!

(SALLY chokes on her cookie, suddenly aware of where they are going)

SALLY: Stan?

(STANLEY ignores her)

PENELOPE: I think we should know something about where we're going. How will I know what clothes to pack?

STAN: *(laughs)* That's the beautiful part of the whole trip, you don't have to pack anything...special that is. It's very casual.

(SALLY is looking at STAN in disbelief)

SALLY: Did you say you used to go there with your...family?

STAN: *(ignoring her question)* Just throw a few things in a bag, bring whatever helps you loosen up. You still take pictures Pete?

PETER: Yes, I love photography. I've taken a lot of photos for Penny's garden club, but I'd really like to get more people shots. People doing what people do, you know?

STAN: And are you still painting Penelope?

PENELOPE: Well yes, but I've never had any lessons. I'm what you might call a closet artist.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!