

Made for Each Other

Simmie Levine





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MADE FOR EACH OTHER
A Play in One Act

by Simmie Levine

A one-act comedy about a lively 80 year-old retired dentist and her family dealing with changes in her lifestyle.

CAST

MOTHER/DR. PAULINE STEWART: A retired dentist of 80

DR. MICHAEL GRAND: Her son-in-law, a physiatrist of about 45

CLAIRE GRAND: A woman in her early forties

OFFICER BLAINE: A man, about 55

DR. ROY THOMAS: A neurologist, about 50

MRS. ANNIE SIMMS: A woman, about 70

Setting: All action takes place in the living room of Claire and Dr. Michael Grand. It is modest, tastefully furnished, and bookish. There is a window and dining area at stage left and a door at stage right.

Scene I

At Rise: Stage is dark. There is a knock at the door. Another one. Mumbled voices are heard offstage. Lights go on as the doorbell sounds.

MICHAEL: *(barefoot, rushing, tying bathrobe belt runs across stage from left and heads for door)* Coming. Coming. For Christ's sake, I'm coming!

He opens the door and gestures in Mother/Dr. Stewart and Officer Blaine. Mother wears her nightgown and a police jacket. She is haughty and poised, despite her dress.

CLAIRE: *(rushing across from stage left wearing bathrobe)* Mother! *(to Officer Blaine)* What happened?

OFFICE BLAINE: Well, you see, we ...

MOTHER/ DR. STEWART: Nothing. Nothing has happened. All this fuss because of a set a keys.

OFFICER BLAINE: We found her around midnight, wandering aimlessly at the Conference Center.

MOTHER/ DR. STEWART: I was not wandering aimlessly. I was going to the bathroom.

MICHAEL: At the closed, deserted Conference Center? In the business district?

MOTHER/ DR. STEWART: Do you have a memory problem? I live near there. Just a few blocks away. I was locked out of my apartment house. Left without my key. Damned security system. *(to Claire)* You have a set of my keys. Can I have them so I can go back home?

OFFICER BLAINE: We found her right on the highway. If she 's a wanderer she shouldn't be living alone.

CLAIRE: She's NOT living alone. Mother where was Mrs. Slater?

MOTHER/ DR. STEWART: Discharged her. Hated her. No sense of humor. A bore.

MICHAEL: *(sarcastic)* We tried to get Joan Rivers but she turned down the job.

MOTHER/ DR. STEWART: *(staring at him icily)* YOU would have gotten along with Mrs. Slater.

CLAIRE: Well, Mrs. Slater certainly should have told us she was leaving.

MOTHER/ DR. STEWART: Why? Why should anyone talk to you about my business? I must have been out of my mind to consider a companion.

Claire and Michael exchange glances. Officer Blaine notices.

OFFICER BLAINE: I'll be going now.

MOTHER/DR. STEWART: What, and leave me here?

MICHAEL: Pauline, it's 2 in the morning, too late to do anything else.

MOTHER/DR. STEWART: Very well. *(to Officer Blaine)* But before you go, sit down and open your mouth.

Officer Blaine glances questioningly at Claire and Michael. Claire nods.

CLAIRE: She was a respected dentist for more than fifty years.

MOTHER/DR. STEWART: I am a dentist, a retired dentist. Once in a while I offer an opinion as a public service. *(To policeman, gesturing to a chair)* Sit down. And open your mouth.

Policeman sits down. Mother peers into his mouth. Mother does dentist movements, sounds.

MOTHER/DR. STEWART: Open your mouth. Close. Bite. Again. Bite. Now, how old are you?

OFFICER BLANE: Fifty-five.

MOTHER/DR. STEWART: Not too late. Orthodontia. Your mouth is too crowded. If nothing is done, you'll have no teeth by the time you're seventy. Your bottom teeth are pounding the inner gums of your uppers and your upper teeth are pounding the outer gums of your lowers. Get it taken care of. The orthodontist will raise your bite. Probably extract four teeth but it'll be worth it. Save the rest of your mouth and your gums will stop bleeding. Orthodontia. ORTHODONTIA.

Officer Blaine looks perplexedly at Michael.

MICHAEL: Night-wandering and all...take her advice. If she told me to see an orthodontist, I would.

OFFICER BLAINE: *(to Mother/Dr. Stewart)* Well, thank you very much, I guess.

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