

Waiting for Seven

Philip Hall





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WAITING FOR SEVEN

by Philip W. Hall

CAST

MARY: A woman of a certain age.

ETHEL: A woman of a certain age.

Place

A bench.

Time

The present.

At Rise: MARY and ETHEL are sitting on a bench. The conversation has lagged as impatience sets in. They are waiting for someone. After a pause, ETHEL checks her watch. Then MARY does, too.

ETHEL: This should not be happening. I wouldn't do this. You wouldn't do this.
(beat) Hell. Sheldon wouldn't do this.

MARY: Who's Sheldon?

ETHEL: What?

MARY: Sheldon. Who is he?

ETHEL: He was my second husband.

MARY: You were married twice?

ETHEL: I was married six times. Shelly was number two.

MARY: Six times?

ETHEL: Six.

MARY: Barely came up for air.

ETHEL: Hmm.

MARY: Busy.

ETHEL: Tell me about it.

(pause)

MARY: What was Shelly like?

ETHEL: Oh, don't call him Shelly. He didn't like to be called Shelly.

MARY: You just called him Shelly.

ETHEL: Oh. Me, sure.

MARY: Why's that?

ETHEL: I did many things to annoy him. I hated him. He knew I hated him.

MARY: Why?

ETHEL: Why what?

MARY: Why did you hate him?

ETHEL: He was married.

MARY: He was married to you.

ETHEL: Nah. He was married before.

MARY: Divorced?

ETHEL: Now, see. Shelly would call that a technicality.

MARY: What?

ETHEL: Divorce.

MARY: You don't mean...?

ETHEL: I do. Committed bigamy right outa the box.

MARY: Wow.

ETHEL: Tell me about it.

MARY: *(after a beat)* What happened to him?

ETHEL: His wife murdered him.

MARY: Nah.

ETHEL: Oh, yeah. It was in all the papers. First she stabbed him. Then she shot him. Then she stabbed him some more. *(beat)* It's possible she drowned him a little.

MARY: You don't say!

ETHEL: Oh, yes. She's doing life.

MARY: Well.

(pause)

ETHEL: I visit her now and then.

(pause)

MARY: What about the others?

ETHEL: Others?

MARY: Husbands.

ETHEL: Well, the drama died down considerably after Shel. My first was very exciting.

MARY: Yeah?

ETHEL: Very exciting.

MARY: Ooo.

ETHEL: Texas surfer. Amarillo Joe. Huge bronze mountain of a man.

MARY: Ah. Handsome?

ETHEL: Yes. Very. He loved to dance. I remember how it felt when he'd hold me.
(*pause as she relives it*) He flew cocaine from Monterrey to Corpus Christi.

MARY: Ah.

ETHEL: Got all baked up one night and flew straight into an escarpment.

MARY: An escarpment?

ETHEL: Steep cliff. Doubt if he felt a thing.

MARY: Awwwww. Widowed.

ETHEL: Hmmm. (*she muses for a moment*) Number three was fun.

MARY: Yeah?

ETHEL: Enrico.

MARY: Ah. Italian?

ETHEL: Irish. Enrico O'Donnell. Don't ask.

MARY: Italian mother.

ETHEL: (*surprised that MARY knows*) Yes.

MARY: Only way that kinda name happens. What was he like?

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!