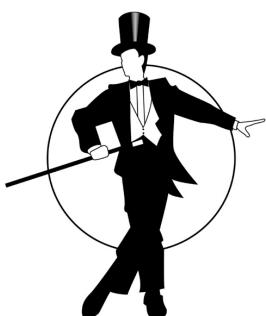


Growing-Old

Donald R. Fried



ArtAge
Publications



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GROWING-OLD

This play is the sequel to "The Code," in which the two meet after responding to personal ads. They have a good conversation but neither was what the other was expecting and they depart the coffee shop as friends. Now, CHARLIE, who is again on the prowl for elderly women, and Rose have another encounter. This time ROSE is interested in CHARLIE, but he is reluctant. Rose insists she has changed.

CAST

ROSE: Age 80 or older. Realizing that it's time to soften, but still a confident, aggressive, tough old lady.

CHARLIE: Age mid 70s or older. Trying to be 'in touch with his feminine side.'

Place

A small cafe, with an implied entrance to one side and a service counter to the other.

The only stage pieces are a table and two chairs.

Time

The present.

GROWING-OLD

At Rise: CHARLIE is seated at the table. In front of him is a cup of coffee and a brightly-colored 'man-purse.' ROSE enters but CHARLIE does not see her. She goes to the counter.

ROSE: I'll have the usual, Ramon.

(She takes a cup and goes to CHARLIE.)

CHARLIE: Rose!

ROSE: I was pretty sure it was going to be you.

CHARLIE: But the ad doesn't describe me. It's someone else entirely.

ROSE: I've been doing this for a couple of months, now. I haven't seen one yet that was accurate.

CHARLIE: Fair enough. But that still doesn't tell how you knew it was me.

ROSE: The first clue was the semi-colon. There just can't be that many people who would use a semi-colon—correctly—in a personal ad looking for guiltless indiscriminate sex with old ladies. And the writing was so beautiful. I'd fallen deeply and lastingly in love by the time I'd read the second sentence. Nobody could do that without a lot of research and practice, and that immediately made me think of you.

CHARLIE: Why wouldn't you see me in February when I called?

ROSE: You shouldn't have given up so easily. Anyway, I've been busy.

CHARLIE: Meeting all the people who responded to all those ads I wrote for you?

ROSE: I never expected so many!

CHARLIE: Those ads were nearly as good as my new one. So, how's it been going?

ROSE: Well, I'm on a first-name basis with every barista within a ten-mile radius. On the other hand, with all this coffee I've had to drink, when I'm not peeing all night, I'm sitting bolt upright with my eyes open.

CHARLIE: No, I mean, how did it go with—uh, the other thing. You know, being a lesbian?

ROSE: Oh, that. Fine.

CHARLIE: That's it? Just fine?

ROSE: Yes. Do you really want to hear the details?

CHARLIE: Yes, please!

ROSE: I'm not going to tell you that!

CHARLIE: Awww, why not?

ROSE: Because it's none of your business.

CHARLIE: There's no need to be embarrassed. You need to tell me these things if I'm going to keep helping you with your ads. Think of me like a doctor.

ROSE: Right! Just open my mouth and say "Ah. (*now starting to fake an orgasm.*) Aaaaahhhh! Aaaaahhhh!"

CHARLIE: So if your 'encounters' were so fulfilling, how come you answered my ad?

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