

Grown-Up Games

Arthur S. Keyser





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GROWN-UP GAMES

by

Arthur S. Keyser

CAST

ANTHONY: a balding ninety-two year old man

CHARLES: a black man in his late eighties with a full head of white hair

A September morning in the passenger waiting area of a train station. Anthony wears a small canvas backpack. He sits on a wooden bench. On the bench beside him is a leather satchel, cracked and discolored from age. Charles sits next to Anthony. On the ground at Charles' feet is a medium-sized piece of luggage.

THE STATION LOUD SPEAKER (*we hear the last part of an announcement*)
...express has been delayed. We apologize for any inconvenience.

CHARLES: What did he say?

ANTHONY: What did who say?

CHARLES: The man talking in that speaker up there.

ANTHONY: I wasn't paying attention. I think one of the trains is late.

CHARLES: Did he say my train?

ANTHONY: Might have been. (*pause*) Maybe it wasn't.

CHARLES: You're supposed to be listening. It was my job yesterday. Yours today.

ANTHONY: I was busy.

CHARLES: Busy doing what? We're just sitting here.

ANTHONY: I was thinking about lunch. What's today?

CHARLES: Mac 'n cheese day.

ANTHONY: Montauk.

CHARLES: What's Montauk have to do with Mac 'n cheese?

ANTHONY: I think that the speaker guy said the train from Montauk is a few minutes late.

CHARLES: That's not good. I might not get to the city on time. You sure it was talking about my train?

ANTHONY: Maybe it's the train going to Montauk. I don't know. When I'm thinking about lunch I don't hear lots of things. And I don't always remember what I'm supposed to do and what you're gonna do.

CHARLES: We talked all about it last week. Today, it's your job to listen to the speaker -- not mine. My job is to think about the audition. I haven't danced for a long time.

ANTHONY: I don't think my listening to the speaker is a good idea. I can't do everything for you.

CHARLES: Everything? What do you do for me?

ANTHONY: I reminded you to take your tap shoes, the white jacket, the bow tie, the --

CHARLES: You didn't remind me until I had everything packed already.

ANTHONY: So what. Suppose you forgot. Then you would've been glad I told you.

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