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***We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!***

**ArtAge Publications**

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HOW COULD YOU?

By

Bara Swain

CAST

**RHODA BARTFELD:** Rhoda, 60s, is a woman prone to outbursts. She is stubborn, loyal, and a doting stay-at-home wife, who moved from Brooklyn to her upper west side home.

**MURIEL KATZ:** Muriel, also from Brooklyn, has been Rhoda's best friend for almost 40 years. Muriel works in a hair salon in New York City as a stylist. She was married and divorced several times. She is empathetic but down to earth. Muriel wears a beautician's jacket with pockets.

Place

A hair salon in Manhattan

Time

Late morning

**Setting:** *A New York City hair salon. There is a salon chair, stage center.*

**At rise:** *From the wings off-stage comes the sound of a voice shouting hysterically.*

**RHODA:** Young woman, I'll repeat myself one more time! I have Achilles tendonitis in my right ankle! I have bursitis in my left hip! I have a floating uterus and premature ventricular heartbeats! But I do not have an appointment! Now let go of my hand or I'll—

**RHODA:** *(She rushes onstage. Her hair is a mess; her face is tear-stained. Her blouse is buttoned incorrectly, and she is wearing one shoe.)* **MURIEL!** Muriel, where are you?

**MURIEL,** *60s, runs onstage. She is wearing plastic gloves, and her outfit is covered by a long smock.*

**MURIEL:** What happened to you, Rhoda?

**RHODA:** What happened? *(calling into the wings offstage)* You should mind your elders! *(to Muriel)* I need to talk to you. *(calling again)* And put on a brassiere! *(to Muriel)* How can I take someone seriously who isn't wearing a brassiere?

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