

FreeView
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MAKING A MOVE

by

Carl L. Williams

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT:

Carl L. Williams is a playwright whose full-length and one-act plays have won numerous national competitions, with productions from California to New York, including off-off-Broadway. More than two dozen of his plays have been published. Since his retirement as a social worker, he has been pursuing playwriting full-time.

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Characters: 2 M, 2 W

Harvey Burke.....	senior citizen, out of shape
Vera Burke.....	his wife, senior citizen
Gloria.....	their daughter, middle-aged
Teddy Musterman.....	senior citizen, in good

Setting: The Burke living room. Front door and door to hallway.

Time: Present, late afternoon.

Synopsis: A man's wife and daughter try to convince him that moving to a retirement community would be a good idea. He resists any such notion until confronted with the apparently romantic attentions of an athletic friend toward his wife.

MAKING A MOVE

HARVEY BURKE and his daughter GLORIA sit looking at brochures for a senior retirement community. A large, open bag of potato chips sits on the coffee table

GLORIA: Just consider it, Dad.

HARVEY: No. How many times do I have to say no? I should get a big stamp that says NO and stamp all these brochures you keep bringing me.

GLORIA: You know good and well this big house is too much for you and Mom to keep up. *(points to a brochure spread open on the coffee table)* See these pretty little bungalows? Just perfect for you.

HARVEY: I like it here.

GLORIA: And what happens when Mom can't do everything around the place anymore?

HARVEY: She doesn't do everything. I help out. Ever since I retired, I've been helping with the housework.

GLORIA: Putting dishes in the dishwasher isn't quite the same as dusting and vacuuming and sweeping and mopping and--

HARVEY: Hey, I take the dishes out of the washer, too, you know, and put them back in the cabinet.

GLORIA: And then you go and lie down to catch your breath. Which brings up the main reason for moving to Silverwood Estates Retirement Community. Look here...*(opens a brochure)* They have their own health club, with all this exercise equipment. They even have a physical trainer who comes in several times a week.

HARVEY: Fine. He can use the equipment. *(eats a potato chip)*

GLORIA: *(grabs another brochure)* And look here. The bungalows face this beautiful golf course.

HARVEY: I don't play golf.

GLORIA: You could learn.

HARVEY: How many windows get smashed from the golf balls coming over? And who pays for the windows? Did you ever stop to think about that?

GLORIA: (*exasperated*) Honestly, Dad. If you ever get a window broken, I'll pay for it.

HARVEY: I don't need my daughter paying for my windows. Which aren't my windows, because I'm not living there. Look, Gloria...I know you're trying to help. But we don't need your help. Not this kind, anyway.

GLORIA: Yeah, well, you might check with Mom about that.

HARVEY: What do you mean?

GLORIA: It's not just all the housework. She's worried about you.

HARVEY: For thirty years she's been worried about me. That's what wives do. They worry about their husbands.

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