

Stanley's Choice

Millie Ackley





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STANLEY'S CHOICE

By

Millie Ackley

CAST

STANLEY PINCHER: Sally's Husband

SALLY PINCHER: Stanley's Wife

PETER PAGE: Penelope's Husband

PENELOPE PAGE: Peter's Wife

GERTRUDE HOROWITZ: Owner of Plain & Simple

ACT I

Scene I: Backyard patio with a round glass top table; umbrella and four chairs. Table is set with four glasses and a pitcher of ice tea. Seated around table are Penelope Page a petite, quiet spoken, white haired woman in her mid-sixty's and President of the Garden Club. Her husband Peter, slightly balding, elderly gentleman and Professor of history at Beesley all girl Academy. Stanley Pincher retired auto dealer, tall, outdoorsman. Everyone is laughing! Sally Pincher enters; she is a white haired, energetic woman, and retired physical education teacher from Beesley Academy. She is carrying a dish of cookies and some napkins. She places the cookies and napkins in the middle of the table next to pitcher of ice tea. She sits in the un-occupied chair across from Stanley.

SALLY: What's so funny? What have I missed?

PENELOPE: Oh Sally! Why didn't you let me help you? Here I sit enjoying this beautiful day and your lovely garden while you do all the work.

SALLY: Don't be silly. I wouldn't call cookies and ice tea work! Well, hat have I missed?

PETER: You haven't missed anything! Stanley refuses to tell us where we're going. He's being very mysterious, and I must tell you I'm not very good with surprises, especially when it involves my summer vacation. How about a little hint?

STAN: No can do Pete ole boy. This year it's a surprise destination, to celebrate my wife's... uh... birthday!

SALLY: Really? How wonderful!

PENELOPE: Sally do you know where we're going?

SALLY: Haven't a clue. (*as she examines the cookies and chooses one.*) (*to Stan.*) Every time I ask, he just smiles.

PENELOPE: Well... Peter's not a good traveler, I think you already know that, and to suggest an unspecified destination... well... he could get a bit grouchy.

PETER: You're no more adventurous than I am!

STAN: Oh come on Pete. Where's that ole pioneering spirit? How long have we known each other?

PETER: At least a decade or two.

STAN: And in that time have you ever known me to steer you wrong?

PETER: (*reluctantly.*) Well, no.

STAN: Remember the first time you came into my dealership to buy a car? I could have sold you the most expensive *new* car on the lot, but instead I gave you a sweet deal on a nice little used car, which I might add, you're still driving. So what's the problem?

PETER: A vacation is different. Teaching teenage girls American history for ten months can be nerve wracking. Not that I don't love my job, but I definitely look forward to my summer vacation. I want to relax and unwind, not worry about anything.

SALLY: Peter's right Stan. I remember when I was the PhysEd teacher at Beesley Academy. Summer vacations were very important to me. If you can remember? (*bites into cookie.*)

STAN: I do remember and that's why I know you're going to love this place! I've taken the worry out of it and planned the whole thing myself. It's a great place to let go and just be yourself... my family vacationed there every summer and I loved it!

(Sally chokes on her cookie, suddenly aware of where they are going.)

SALLY: Stan?

(Stanley ignores her.)

PENELOPE: I think we should know something about where we're going. How will I know what clothes to pack?

STAN: (*laughs.*) That's the beauty part of the whole trip, you don't have to pack anything... special that is. It's very casual.

(Sally is looking at Stan in disbelief.)

SALLY: Did you say you used to go there with your... family?

STAN: (*ignoring her question.*) Just throw a few things in a bag, bring whatever helps you loosen up. You still take pictures Pete?

PETER: Yes, I love photography. I've taken a lot of photos for Penny's garden club, but I'd really like to get more people shots. People doing what people do, you know?

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