

# Bernie and the Beast

Marsha Sheiness



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BERNIE AND THE BEAST

A comedy in one act

by

Marsha Lee Sheiness

CAST

**BERNIE:** Middle 70's

**EVELYN:** Late 60's

Both **BERNIE** and **EVELYN** are small in stature but giants in spirit.

Place

BERNIE and EVELYN, married for forty-two years, are lost somewhere in South Dakota. As the evening unfolds at the Blue Lagoon Motel they reveal their many levels of love and dependency as well as a solid commitment to a loving, enduring relationship.

Time

The present.

*At Rise: A room at the Blue Lagoon Motel. Summer, just after sundown. We hear a key in the lock. The door opens. BERNIE enters, wearing a hat. HE feels along the wall for a light switch. EVELYN enters and stays in the doorway.*

BERNIE: Where's the damn light switch?

EVELYN: What's that over there?

BERNIE: Over where?

EVELYN: Between those two beds, there's a lamp. Try turning it on.

BERNIE: *(crossing to lamp)* Probably doesn't work.

EVELYN: There's one way to find out.

*(BERNIE turns on the lamp, it works. EVELYN surveys the room)*

EVELYN: Tacky, tacky, yuck! I don't like your Blue Lagoon Motel one bit.

BERNIE: Since when is this my motel? I don't remember signing any papers.

EVELYN: You picked it.

BERNIE: You told me to pull in.

EVELYN: I said, "There's one."

BERNIE: I told you we should have stopped ten miles back before it got dark.

EVELYN: Wasn't ready to stop ten miles back.

BERNIE: I'm not the one who's afraid to drive at night. What do you want me to do?

EVELYN: Nothing to do except get the bags. I don't drive nowhere after dark-thirty.

BERNIE: I'm not going to drag them in here if you're going to change your mind in five minutes.

EVELYN: I'm making no promises.

BERNIE: Maybe I can make it worth your while. Will a hundred do it?

EVELYN: Chicken feed.

BERNIE: How about two?

EVELYN: Chickie, chickie, chickie! El Cheapo!

BERNIE: El Cheapo? Since when am I El Cheapo?

EVELYN: Ever since our first date.

BERNIE: Two-fifty is my final offer.

EVELYN: You've got yourself a deal.

BERNIE: *(reaches for his wallet)* You got change for a hundred?

*(EVELYN opens her bag, takes out a fifty-dollar bill. THEY exchange bills)*

EVELYN: Sugar Daddy.

BERNIE: How do you figure that after forty-two years?

EVELYN: Sweet and Sour Daddy.

BERNIE: That sounds more like it. I'm going to check in. *(gives her a kiss on the cheek)*

EVELYN: Leave my makeup case under the seat. I won't be needing it.

BERNIE: Since when?

EVELYN: Don't know how long I'll be staying. Haven't made up my mind.

BERNIE: We made a deal and you're going to stick to it.

EVELYN: Maybe I will and maybe I won't.

BERNIE: Damn Beast. *(HE exits)*

EVELYN: You got that right. *(SHE opens door to the bathroom, turns on the light, and looks it over. Tests both beds, one is very firm, one is very soft. SHE turns on the air-conditioner, then opens a curtain that covers a clothes rack) Damn flea-joint!! (SHE turns the TV set on and off, lifts the receiver on the telephone, listens for dial tone, replaces receiver. Opens each drawer of the chest-of-drawers to check for cleanliness as BERNIE enters carrying two heavy suitcases)*

BERNIE: Where do you want me to put these?

EVELYN: Where's my makeup case?

BERNIE: I thought you said you didn't want it.

EVELYN: Changed my mind.

*(BERNIE puts the two suitcases down)*

BERNIE: I should have married your twin sister.

EVELYN: It's not too late! She's looking for her third husband. And she still has all her teeth.

BERNIE: What else do you want out there?

EVELYN: All I want is my makeup case. (*BERNIE has a severe pain in his stomach that forces him to lose his breath and sit*) What happened? (*HE is unable to answer*) Did you take your medicine?

BERNIE: (*with effort*) When did I have time to take my medicine?

EVELYN: It's past due.

BERNIE: I know that. Where is it? (*Checks his pant pockets*)

EVELYN: In that pill caddy I bought you. I saw you use it this morning.

BERNIE: Then you were hallucinating. That pill caddy is at home in my desk drawer. Look in your purse. I may have put the pills in your purse this morning.

EVELYN: (*looking through her purse*) What's wrong with that pill caddy?

BERNIE: I can never get the damn thing open without hurting my thumb.

EVELYN: If you're not going to use it then I want it back.

BERNIE: You can have it back.

EVELYN: (*finds his pills in her purse and hands bottle to him*) Here. What the hell are your pills doing in my purse?

BERNIE: You really are a beast!

EVELYN: Brutal beast.

BERNIE: Mean. (*takes out a pill*)

EVELYN: Mean and ornery. Sit still, I'll get you some water. (*goes into the bathroom*)

BERNIE: How 'bout some news, Beast? (*turns on the TV set, gets snowy static on all channels*) Don't tell me the damn TV doesn't work!

EVELYN'S VOICE: The air-conditioner works fine.

BERNIE: I'm not talking about the air-conditioner. I want to watch the news.

EVELYN'S VOICE: Then turn on the television set. (*enters*)

BERNIE: I've got it on. I can't get a picture. (*turns TV set off*) Dammit!!

EVELYN: What's the matter with you?

BERNIE: If we'd have stopped ten miles back, we'd have a decent place to stay and a TV that works.

EVELYN: (*sitting on a bed*) You were driving. -- Which bed do you want?

BERNIE: I don't care!

EVELYN: This one is hard as a rock, (*sits on the other bed*) and this one stinks. Sit on it.

(*BERNIE sets water glass down, and then crosses toward the bed*)

BERNIE: What's wrong with it? (*sits and sinks into the mattress*) Ninety-eight a night for this?

EVELYN: Plus tax. -- I'll sleep on it.

BERNIE: What's the other one like?

EVELYN: Hard as a rock. I want my makeup case.

BERNIE: I'll get it.

**END OF FREEVIEW**

**You'll want to read and perform this show!**