

# It's Not About Pot Roast

Arthur Keyser



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**FREEVIEW**

Cast

NORMA: A seventy-six year old housewife.

MOLLY: Also seventy-six, a next door neighbor and Norma's close friend.

Place

Norma's living room.

Time

Four-thirty on a weekday afternoon.

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Setting: There are two upholstered chairs with a side table between them. On the table is a folder with travel brochures and a small box from a women's apparel store.

At Rise: The lights come up. (SOUND CUE: A knock on the door) NORMA enters, hurries to the door and opens it. MOLLY rushes in.)

MOLLY: I'm almost out of breath! I ran as fast as I could! What's wrong? Is it Victor? I can help you with everything. If you'll have to be at the hospital, I'll ask Sam to watch your house. I can make dinner for you. When things like this happen, I thank God I live next door to my best friend. I don't want you to worry. Victor will get better.

NORMA: (closing the door) You're talking so fast, I can't catch up. Victor's not sick. He's playing gin rummy for five cents a game at a friend's house, and unless he's losing, he's probably feeling fine.

MOLLY: You said it was an emergency. I left everything to rush over. I'm in the middle of a pot roast for Sam.

NORMA: I didn't say emergency. I said it was important.

MOLLY: Emergency. Important. For me it's the same thing.

NORMA: I'm sorry I took you from your pot roast. I promise you'll get back before it burns. Sit down a minute. I want you to be the first to know. (Molly sits.)

MOLLY: I'm sitting, so why are you still standing?

NORMA: I'm too excited to sit down.

MOLLY: What is it? Did you win the lottery?

NORMA: How can I win the lottery? I don't even know how to buy a lottery ticket.

MOLLY: So why am I here?

NORMA: I've been watching travel programs on the television and—

MOLLY: That's the reason you called me? You want me to be the first to know you're watching travel shows?

NORMA: Let me finish. I have something to show you.

(Norma picks up a folder, opens it and begins to show travel brochures to Molly.)

NORMA: Look! Cruises. All over the world. Did you ever see anything so exciting?

MOLLY: People like you and me shouldn't get excited about places we'll never see.

NORMA: That's what I'm trying to tell you! I'm going to see all these places. Or at least some of them. I'm planning a Mediterranean cruise.

MOLLY: Good luck. I'm planning to take a cruise around our neighborhood.

NORMA: I'm serious. I've been dreaming about this all my life.

MOLLY: Victor's gin rummy partners are really going to miss him.

NORMA: Victor's not going. I'm going alone.

MOLLY: By yourself? How does Victor feel about you going without him?

NORMA: I don't know. I haven't told him yet.

MOLLY: I was right in the first place. This isn't just important...it is an emergency! Only, you're the one who's sick.

NORMA: This isn't a joke. It's the most important decision I've ever made.

MOLLY: Do me a favor. Sit down. You're making me nervous. (Norma sits.)

So when are you telling Victor that after all the years you've been married, you're taking a trip without him?

NORMA: After I take care of a few small details.

MOLLY: Like what?

NORMA: Like how I'm going to pay for the trip.

MOLLY: How much is it?

NORMA: Eight thousand dollars.

MOLLY: Is that all? You could probably save that much in twenty years from the household money Victor gives you. If you're still able to walk, you can go then.

NORMA: That's not funny. I'll go to the bank and borrow the money. I have to do this. The trip is on the list.

MOLLY: What list?

NORMA: Didn't you see the movie? The one with Jack Nicholson and that good-looking Jewish black actor?

MOLLY: What Jewish black actor?

NORMA: Morris Freedman.

MOLLY: Do you mean Morgan Freeman?

NORMA: That's his name.

MOLLY: Morgan Freeman is not Jewish.

NORMA: Whatever. He's still very good looking.

MOLLY: What does Jack Nicklaus have to do with your going on a cruise?

**END OF FREEVIEW**

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

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