

# Close Call

Olga Sanderson





ArtAge supplies books, plays, and materials to older performers around the world. Directors and actors have come to rely on our 30+ years of experience in the field to help them find useful materials and information that makes their productions stimulating, fun, and entertaining.

ArtAge's unique program has been featured in *Wall Street Journal*, *LA Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *American Theatre*, *Time Magazine*, *Modern Maturity*, on *CNN*, *NBC*, and in many other media sources.

ArtAge is more than a catalog. We also supply information, news, and trends on our top-rated website, *www.seniortheatre.com*. We stay in touch with the field with our very popular e-newsletter, *Senior Theatre Online*. Our President, Bonnie Vorenberg, is asked to speak at conferences and present workshops that supplement her writing and consulting efforts. We're here to help you be successful in Senior Theatre!

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

ArtAge Publications  
Bonnie L. Vorenberg, President  
PO Box 19955  
Portland OR 97280  
503-246-3000 or 800-858-4998  
bonniev@seniortheatre.com  
www.seniortheatre.com

## NOTICE

**Copyright:** This play is fully protected under the Copyright Laws of the United States of America, Canada, and all other countries of the Universal Copyright Convention.

The laws are specific regarding the piracy of copyrighted materials. Sharing the material with other organizations or persons is prohibited. Unlawful use of a playwright's work deprives the creator of his or her rightful income.

**Cast Copies:** Performance cast copies are required for each actor, director, stage manager, lighting and sound crew leader.

**Changes to Script:** Plays must be performed as written. Any alterations, additions, or deletions to the text must be approved.

**Permission to Film:** Rights to produce, film, or record, in whole or in part, in any medium or in any language, by any group amateur or professional, are fully reserved.

**Royalty:** Royalties are due when you perform the play for any audience, paying or non-paying, professional or amateur. This includes readings, cuttings, scenes, and excerpts.

*The royalty for amateur productions of this show is posted online. It is payable two weeks prior to your production. Contact us for professional rates or other questions. Royalty fees are subject to change.*

*Insert the following paragraph in your programs:*

***Performed with special permission from ArtAge Publications'  
Senior Theatre Resource Center at 800-858-4998,  
[www.seniortheatre.com](http://www.seniortheatre.com)***

CLOSE CALL

by Olga Sanderson

CAST

DELIA and DORA: Widow Sisters.

CHARLIE and CLEM BUMPSTEAD: Delia and Dora's bachelor neighbors.

Setting: *The BUMPSTEAD's living room.*

CLEM: When did you say the ladies would be over?

CHARLIE: They should be over any minute now.

CLEM: Sure was a good idea of yours that we get married. Darning socks and patching underwear isn't much to my liking.

CHARLIE: Mine either. Wonder how we should go about proposing?

CLEM: Sure beats me. Guess we will just have to sneak up to it. You know play it by ear as they say. Oh, here they come. Hello girls, come on in. (*DORA and DELIA enter*)

DORA: Hello Charlie, Clem. What's up?

DELIA: You two look serious. Is there something wrong?

CLEM: Well it's like this. It's time we was to start thinking about our future.

DORA: You mean like dying and your funeral?

CHARLIE: No. No. We are too young for that!

DELIA: Oh, then is it your social security?

CLEM: Didn't have that in mind either.

DORA: I bet it's about investing money. Sorry boys, but we do not have any experience. In fact, we could use some advice ourselves.

CHARLIE: Gee, Clem. We didn't give that a thought. Maybe that should come with the package.

DELIA: Well I give up.

CLEM: You know, sometimes it gets lonely around the house for me and Charlie. We were thinking of getting...

DORA: Oh, you're getting a dog and you want us to help you look for one.

DELIA: That should be real fun. We could go to the Humane Society with you tomorrow.

CHARLIE: No. No. That isn't what we had in mind.

CLEM: Besides a dog would mean more work for us.

CHARLIE: It's like this. Me and Clem gets awfully tired of looking at each other, cooking and cleaning and such stuff.

DELIA: Now you want us to help get you a housekeeper?

CLEM: No. No. That would cost us too much money. Now if we could get someone on a more permanent basis. Like one for me and one for Charlie.

DORA: You would not need two housekeepers. That would really be a waste of money.

CHARLIE: No. No. We were thinking it would be nice to have someone to cuddle up with in bed. In the wintertime, it sure would save on heat.

DELIA: Charlie and Clem! Shame on you!

CLEM: He didn't mean what you are thinking. We were planning on getting married first.

DORA: Well I hope so. In other words you are thinking about getting married but do not know to whom yet?

CHARLIE: I guess that would be it but...

DELIA: Dora, can you think of some ladies that would maybe like Charlie and Clem?

DORA: I bet you two would like someone who would sit by the fire and hold your hand.

CLEM: That's right! And we were thinking...

DELIA: Dora, do you know of any women like that?

CHARLIE: We were thinking maybe you two...

DORA: Well of course, we will help you find someone special. I'm sure we can do that. That would mean they wouldn't be anything like us. We would want husbands that wouldn't mind taking us out to dinner, going to concerts and going shopping with us.

DELIA: I think all women are like that, Dora. Plus they would turn up the heat in the winter so they wouldn't have to cuddle up with some old coot.

CHARLIE: We aren't some old coots!

DELIA: Oh excuse me, Charlie. I didn't mean you two.

CLEM: Don't you think some woman could think that we would be quite a catch?

CHARLIE: Yeah. At one time the girls would be the ones chasing us. Even called us up on the phone.

DORA: Maybe that happened but how long ago was that?

CLEM: Some thirty years or so ago, but we take good care of ourselves. Shave every day and shower so we don't stink.

DELIA: You mean smell, not stink. That word only applies to skunks.

CLEM: Well...now supposing we was thinking about you two...

DORA: You mean us marry again? Oh we would probably drive any man crazy now. We think men should do their share of the cooking, cleaning, and fixing when things get broke.

DELIA: I think all women are like us. We do not plan on playing nursemaid and scratching their backs without them doing the same for us.

CHARLIE: You mean all women? Why I remember my mother and grandmother never demanded any attention. They scrubbed out the spittoons and would even cut their men's toenails and sometimes even shave them.

DORA: Oh Charlie, those were in the bygone days.

DELIA: I think you two have just gotten bored sitting around the house. Now, I have an idea. We are going to the Casino this afternoon, so why don't you two come with us? We play the slot machines starting with fifty dollars and if we are having fun, sometimes we put more money in.

DORA: Also, they could join us tomorrow night when we go to the Danceland Ballroom for the Odd Couple Dance contest.

CLEM: But we don't know how to dance! Isn't that right, Charlie?

CHARLIE: Yep, and I would rather not learn.

DORA: Oh, come on. We can teach you. *(DORA grabs CLEM and starts dancing)*  
See, there is nothing to it.

CLEM: You mean stepping on my feet is dancing? Ouch!

DORA: You got to loosen up. Get a little rhythm in your body.

**END OF FREEVIEW—**  
***You'll want to read and perform this show!***