

Frank's 75th Christmas

Brandon Daughtry Slocum



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Frank's 75th Christmas
by Brandon Daughtry Slocum

Characters

Frank Montgomery: a crotchety man, age 75

Martha Montgomery: his wife

Kay: an Episcopalian rector

Trudy: a fun ball of fire postal employee

Patricia: a tired woman working retail

April, May, June Swann: three eccentric spinster sisters

Officer Brodie: a community security guard

Dr. Reid: A caring and kind cardiologist

Angel: a supernatural being

The action takes place in a retirement community in Florida. It is played with minimal props and suggestive settings.

Scene One

(A table and two chairs, a newspaper, a list, some cards. Martha is 'cooking breakfast' as Frank enters Up Right and crosses to Stage Right chair. Martha crosses to chair. He sits and reads the paper, never looking at his wife)

MARTHA: Good morning.

FRANK: Humph.

MARTHA: Did you sleep well?

FRANK: Humph.

MARTHA: Can you believe it's Christmas Eve? The weatherman says it will be 75 degrees by this afternoon.

FRANK: Hate Florida.

MARTHA: Well, your back doesn't miss the winters back home.

FRANK: My back's no better here. Just hotter.

MARTHA: I have a million things to do before tonight, would you mind running a few errands for me today?

FRANK: Can I take the car?

MARTHA: You know what the doctor said about you driving the car. Take the golf cart, that's why we bought it.

FRANK: No self-respecting man is going to be seen driving a damn golf cart to the store.

MARTHA: Practically every "self-respecting man" in this community drives a golf cart.

FRANK: Marlin Tate doesn't drive a golf cart!

MARTHA: Marlin Tate is only 62 years old, Frank.

FRANK: Then what the hell is he doing here? I was putting in a forty-hour week when I was 62.

MARTHA: He retired early ... to enjoy life a bit more.

FRANK: If watching old folks drive golf carts around an old folks community is his idea of a good time, he should have stayed on his job.

MARTHA: Here's the list. Can you read it?

FRANK: It's printed big enough to read on a billboard,

MARTHA: I can read it. Why can't you do all this stuff?

MARTHA: *(Stands and crosses Down Right)* My ladies' auxiliary is taking dinner to all the people who can't cook for themselves anymore, then I'm off to the community center for the children's choir, and then my bridge club is having a late lunch, and...

FRANK: Alright! I get it. You know everybody and everybody knows you.

MARTHA: Well, they know you too, Frank. If you would just try to make some friends ... adjust a bit.

FRANK: (*Kay enters extreme Down Left with a broom*) I am adjusting! I'm adjusting to my back hurting everyday and my eyes quitting on me and my damn arthritis. I'm adjusting to not being able to work for a living and trying to figure out if we're going to live longer than the money we have will last.

MARTHA: You have the list, Frank. Try to have a good day.

FRANK: Humph.

(*Martha exits Up Center--Frank takes the list and crosses to Center --The table and chairs are removed. He sees Reverend Kay, the rector, sweeping*)

KAY: Good morning, Frank. God bless you on this beautiful Christmas Eve morning.

FRANK: Humph. Don't know why you're bothering to sweep... those steps will just be covered up in sand again in no time. The whole damn state is made of the stuff.

KAY: Well, hopefully, they will stay clean just long enough for people to make their way to service this evening. Will I be seeing you in church this Christmas?

FRANK: I'm a Methodist for Pete's sake!

KAY: God doesn't care about denomination, Frank. God is the same wherever you go. Won't you consider joining us, just this once?

END OF FREEVIEW

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