

# Grown-Up Games

Arthur S. Keyser



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GROWN-UP GAMES

by

Arthur S. Keyser

CAST

ANTHONY: a balding ninety-two-year-old man.

CHARLES: a black man in his late eighties with a full head of white hair.

*Setting: A September morning in the passenger waiting area of a train station.*

*At Rise: ANTHONY wears a small canvas backpack. He sits on a wooden bench. On the bench beside him is a leather satchel, cracked and discolored from age. CHARLES sits next to ANTHONY. On the ground at CHARLES' feet is a medium-sized piece of luggage.*

THE STATION LOUD SPEAKER (*we hear the last part of an announcement*)

...Express has been delayed. We apologize for any inconvenience.

CHARLES: What did he say?

ANTHONY: What did who say?

CHARLES: The man talking in that speaker up there.

ANTHONY: I wasn't paying attention. I think one of the trains is late.

CHARLES: Did he say my train?

ANTHONY: Might have been. (*pause*) Maybe it wasn't.

CHARLES: You're supposed to be listening. It was my job yesterday. Yours today.

ANTHONY: I was busy.

CHARLES: Busy doing what? We're just sitting here.

ANTHONY: I was thinking about lunch. What's today?

CHARLES: Mac 'n cheese day.

ANTHONY: Montauk.

CHARLES: What's Montauk have to do with mac 'n cheese?

ANTHONY: I think that the speaker guy said the train from Montauk is a few minutes late.

CHARLES: That's not good. I might not get to the city on time. You sure it was talking about my train?

ANTHONY: Maybe it's the train going to Montauk. I don't know. When I'm thinking about lunch I don't hear lots of things. And I don't always remember what I'm supposed to do and what you're gonna do.

CHARLES: We talked all about it last week. Today, it's your job to listen to the speaker, not mine. My job is to think about the audition. I haven't danced for a long time.

ANTHONY: I don't think my listening to the speaker is a good idea. I can't do everything for you.

CHARLES: Everything? What do you do for me?

ANTHONY: I reminded you to take your tap shoes, the white jacket, the bow tie, the--

CHARLES: You didn't remind me until I had everything packed already.

ANTHONY: So what. Suppose you forgot. Then you would've been glad I told you.

CHARLES: (*hesitating*) I guess you're right. I'm sorry. (*pause*) I owe you one.

ANTHONY: One what?

CHARLES: One reminder.

ANTHONY: So do it.

CHARLES: Do what?

ANTHONY: Remind me.

CHARLES: About what?

ANTHONY: Whatever you want to remind me about.

CHARLES: I'll have to think about it.

*(Three beeps are suddenly heard)*

STATION LOUD SPEAKER: This is an update. The limited express, due here at 10:35 a.m. is now expected to arrive at 10:39 a.m. Because of the cancellation, the limited express will stop at all stations. Anticipated arrival at its final destination in New York City is now expected to be 1:40 p.m. We apologize for any inconvenience.

ANTHONY: That man in the speaker just said--

CHARLES: I heard him. *(beat)* I forgot what I was supposed to say next.

ANTHONY: You tell me your audition is at two o' clock. No way you can get from the station to the west side that fast.

CHARLES: Now I remember. Thanks, Tony. *(pause)* I guess that means I owe you two.

ANTHONY: Don't count that. It's free. It's a present for your next birthday.

CHARLES: I thought we decided we're too old for birthday presents.

ANTHONY: Okay. It's for Christmas.

CHARLES: That train's gonna be here soon. We better get back to what we're supposed to say.

**END OF FREEVIEW**

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