

# The Wild Sister

John Clifford



**ArtAge**  
Publications



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](http://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](mailto:bonniev@seniortheatre.com)  
[www.seniortheatre.com](http://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.seniorthatre.com](http://www.seniorthatre.com).*

Copyright 2003

THE WILD SISTER

by John Clifford

CAST

Three mature sisters:

KATE: The dominant, rather caustic one. Has a sentimental underside, but also a history of impatience with JOANIE.

JOANIE: The most naive one. She has never felt on equal footing with the other two, and is sensitive about that.

MARILYN: The unpredictable one. She is ambiguous one minute, a lively orator the next.

Place

Living area of Marilyn's home. Set can be as minimal as two chairs.

Time

The present, late morning.

*At Rise: KATE enters followed by an anxious JOANIE, whom she has just let in. JOANIE is shedding her coat. At this point both are hyped-up, worried and want to be helpful, in spite of long-standing tensions between them.*

JOANIE: Where shall I put my coat?

KATE: Anywhere.

JOANIE: I just couldn't get away sooner. How long have you been here?

KATE: About two hours.

JOANIE: Has Eric called her or anything?

KATE: *(Tersely)* He's not going to call. The man is gone.

JOANIE: Where's Marilyn?

KATE: In the bedroom. (*Joanie starts toward the offstage*) No! Don't go in there. She wants more time by herself.

JOANIE: She's gonna be by herself for the rest of her life!

KATE: Not so loud. If our sister needs time to pull herself together, let's let her have it. Just wait, just hold the knot in your stomach and wait, like I am.

JOANIE: (*Pacing*) Can you believe it? The tough years over, both children doing well, and just when they could settle down and enjoy their grandkids--Eric dumps her.

KATE: With no warning. Marilyn woke up in the middle of the night, poof, he's gone. Nothing there but the note he left behind. Imagine that? After all these years of marriage--he leaves a note!

JOANIE: That's disgusting.

KATE: You want to read it?

JOANIE: I don't want to see it...Well, maybe later...On the phone you said "another woman." Who's the other woman?

KATE: I'm not sure. Between you and me it could be any one of several.

JOANIE: You know that? (*KATE nods*) Did you ever tell Marilyn?

KATE: I wanted to, but I couldn't. I know she especially wouldn't want to hear it from me.

JOANIE: (*Sigh*) That Eric...Marilyn and Eric. I never did think those two names went together.

KATE: (*Irritably*) What does that have to do with it?

JOANIE: (*Instantly defensive*) Don't pick on me, Kate. Don't start on me.

KATE: What?

JOANIE: Oh...Forget it...I'm just upset about this. (*Roaming nervously*) You think she's still in the bedroom?

KATE: Where would she go?

JOANIE: She could jump out the window!

KATE: We're on the ground floor.

JOANIE: Well--Why does she want to be alone? What is she doing in there?

KATE: Meditating.

JOANIE: MEDITATING! That's crazy. How can she meditate? She probably can't think straight.

KATE: She'll hear you.

JOANIE: What if she does. I don't trust that old New Age stuff.

KATE: Whatever it takes. We can't tell her what to do.

*(MARILYN, still in her robe, walks swiftly across the room and off the other side. The sisters barely realize she's there before she's gone. Almost immediately she recrosses carrying a small piece of paper in her hand. JOANIE takes a step toward her--)*

MARILYN: Not now. (*and she's off the way she entered*)

KATE: Was she crying?

JOANIE: I couldn't tell. ... She didn't even say hello.

KATE: Her mind was probably elsewhere.

JOANIE: That worries me...Do you think she could be the suicide type?

**END OF FREEVIEW**

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