

# Benny and Pearl Loving in a Goldfish Bowl

Linda L. Rand





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**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)

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BENNY AND PEARL: LOVING IN A GOLD FISH BOWL

by

Linda L. Rand

CAST

**BENNY:** 55+ year old man of a baby boomer age. He's just lost his mother and has committed to honoring her last wishes.

**PEARL:** 55+ year old woman who appears somewhat shy and retiring, she too is a boomer. An executive who has come back to her beginnings.

Place

A large city on the east coast.

Time

Early evening, present time.

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Setting: *An upscale hotel suite. There is a couch, a coffee table, and side chair.*

At Rise: *An open suitcase is on the sofa. Some clothes are spread around it, and shoes are on the floor. Half-eaten snacks and diet cokes are on the coffee table. PEARL enters brushing her teeth. (SOUND CUE: A knock on the door)*

PEARL: Be right there!

BENNY: (O.S.) I got time. No rush.

PEARL: *(She looks in a mirror and adjusts her make-up and hair)* OK. Just a minute. *(She rushes around. Picking things up and getting rid of the toothbrush, she finally opens the door.)*

BENNY: Hey, Pearl!

PEARL: Benny! It's good to see you. Up close and personal like this. Again. I mean...like...when we were growing up.

BENNY: Yeah. It's been a while. *(shrugs)* Sorry. There were so many people at Mom's funeral. I had trouble focusing. You know.

PEARL: Oh, yeah. Sure. *(staring at him)* I thought your eyes were blue.

BENNY: Nope. Brown. Always brown. Though in some folks call them hazel. *(looking past her)* Nice room. From what I can see out here.

PEARL: Oh! Come in. Please. *(She opens the door wider. He enters with a large suitcase and a fish bowl that holds two goldfish. Sorry. It's just so good to see you again. Too bad it had to be under these circumstances.*

BENNY: It was inevitable. At least Mom's not suffering anymore.

PEARL: Doesn't make it any easier.

BENNY: No. It doesn't. You only got one mom.

PEARL: Yeah. I'm embarrassed the place is such a mess. I was expecting you a little later.

BENNY: There wasn't any traffic. Don't worry. No problem. I'm not in a rush. Hardly ever am anymore now that I'm retired. Companies call it that now. Early retirement. That way they don't count us in the unemployment numbers and give the politicians a bad bump up. Bastards!

PEARL: Boy! You got your hands full there. Let me help you.

BENNY: Thanks.

*(Pearl takes the goldfish bowl and places it on the coffee table. Benny sits on the chair and puts the suitcase in front of him.)*

PEARL: I didn't know you were into fish.

BENNY: I'm not. They were Mom's.

PEARL: Oh.

BENNY: Let me introduce you.

PEARL: They have names?

BENNY: Yup. Mom wanted that I name them. When I was ready. Benny meet Pearl. *(Aside)* He's the bigger one with the wavy fins. The boys always are a little more flamboyant you know. Colorful.

PEARL: I'll remember that.

**END OF FREEVIEW**

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