

Misconceptions

Dick Meredith



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ArtAge Publications

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MISCONCEPTIONS

by

Dick Meredith

CAST

NEW WAITRESS: Willow Creek Retirement Center staff member. Any age. Rough around the edges who tells it like it is.

JUNE: Willow Creek Retirement Center resident. Sophisticated, well-mannered, love interest of Richard.

RICHARD: Willow Creek Retirement Center resident. Highly regarded, friendly and sensitive, love interest of June.

DONALD: Willow Creek Retirement Center resident. Sarcastic, wise-cracking, loyal friend of Richard's. Beth's husband.

BETH: Willow Creek Retirement Center resident. Outspoken, feisty friend of June's. Donald's wife.

HELEN: Willow Creek Retirement Center gossip. Eavesdrops and gossips, believing she is everyone's confidant.

MARGARET: Willow Creek Retirement Center director. Any age. Professional and respected.

Place

Willow Creek Retirement Center.

Time

The present.

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Scene 1

Setting: Early morning in the dining room of Willow Creek's Retirement Center. Stage Left is Margaret's office with a desk, two chairs, a computer and a phone. Behind Margaret's office are two tall plants separating the office from an easel with poster board visible to the audience. Center stage is the dining room table with chairs. Stage Right is a garden area with bench and arch, if possible. (A wedding table with cake may be substituted in Scene 4 if no arch is available.)

At Rise: Richard, June, Beth, Donald and Helen are at the breakfast table talking in the Willow Creek Retirement Center's dining room.

DONALD: That was a great breakfast this morning. Breakfast is my favorite meal. Next to lunch and dinner.

NEW WAITRESS: *(enters)* While you're all here, would you like to put in your breakfast orders for tomorrow?

BETH: Sure. Thanks. 2 eggs over easy with toast.

JUNE: I've been putting on a little too much weight lately. I'll just have tea.

DONALD: Pancakes, bacon, coffee, 2 eggs.

HELEN: Just oatmeal for me.

RICHARD: You're new here, right?

NEW WAITRESS: Yep.

RICHARD: Just tell the cook to make Richard's special.

NEW WAITRESS: *(sarcastically)* Ah, sorry. I guess I'm her too. The cook's on leave.

RICHARD: Here's what you do. In the blender, put in 4 ounces of carrot juice. If you look on the shelf, the cook has all my ingredients in one place. There's a box of dried seaweed. Put in 2 TBSP of that.

NEW WAITRESS: Got it.

RICHARD: Then add 4 dried prunes, a TBSP of wheat germ, and a cup of freeze dried spinach.

NEW WAITRESS: Uh huh. *(Knowing this will take a while, she pulls up a chair and sits.)*

RICHARD: Up on that shelf you'll see I purchased some small cans of oysters. Add one small can of raw oysters. Now you'll need one half cup of apple cider vinegar, 1 TBSP of chia seeds, and one TBSP of brewer's yeast. Then top it off with one half cup of canned soy milk.

NEW WAITRESS: *(gets up)* Got it.

RICHARD: Blend it until it has a smooth consistency.

NEW WAITRESS: Got it. *(starts to walk away)*

RICHARD: *(motions her back)* Also, she has 20 oz. cups back there. Just fill one of those. Got that?

NEW WAITRESS: Got it. *(makes a face to audience, then exits)* And the only thing that makes this job better is the no tipping rule.

DONALD: How could you possibly drink that conglomeration? It turned my stomach just hearing you rattle off those ingredients.

RICHARD: It's really good. I've been drinking it every morning since I moved here. It invigorates me. I feel like I can accomplish the impossible. Donald, Tai Chi's at 10:00. Let's get going. *(exits)*

DONALD: *(tells the ladies while exiting)* Just getting it down would be accomplishing the impossible.

JUNE: Beth, I was wondering if you can check on my apartment while I'm gone. I'm going to be leaving for a while. I want to visit my sister in Denver.

BETH: Sure. How long?

JUNE: I'm not sure. Just for an extended visit. I'll stay in touch.

BETH: Is everything all right?

JUNE: Everything's fine. There's something I have to take care of. Thanks, Beth. I'll see you later. *(walks to Margaret's office)*

BETH: *(exits)* See ya later.

(Margaret enters her office. June enters Margaret's office. As June walks over, Helen, the local gossip, turns her head quickly like a gopher to watch June walk to Margaret's office. Helen stands up looking in the direction of the office, crosses upstage of the table to the right and tries to hear.)

MARGARET: Hi, June. What can I do to help you today?

JUNE: Good morning, Margaret. I wanted to tell you that I'll be away for a little while. I need to get a medical procedure done. I really don't want people to know. I'm just telling people that I'm visiting my sister.

MARGARET: I understand.

JUNE: I've been having problems with my tonsils.

MARGARET: I'm sorry to hear that, June.

JUNE: Can you believe it at my age?

(Helen works her way over to the poster pretending to read while eavesdropping. Helen hears June say, "Can you believe it at my age?")

MARGARET: Whatever I can do to help. You can rest assured that I'll keep your information in confidence.

JUNE: Thanks so much, Margaret.

HELEN: *(quickly moves to the center of the room when she realizes June is coming out of the office)* June, is everything OK?

JUNE: Yes. I just needed to take care of some business. *(Helen and June exit.)*

MARGARET: (*answering the phone*) Hello. Willow Creek Retirement Center. How may I help you? (*listens, chuckles, and repeats*) June Thomas? It's funny. There are only two people here named June, and the other one just left my office. What can I do for you, June? Oh? The baby's due a lot earlier than you thought? It's a good thing you took your leave this week. I understand. Don't worry about a thing. Just concentrate on that precious baby. We'll take care of everything, June. (*hangs up*)

(*Helen enters and sneaks back over to the poster to eavesdrop some more.*)

MARGARET: (*dials the phone*) Sorry to bother you, Mr. Abrams. This is Margaret Long from Willow Creek Retirement Center. Sir, we have a problem. You know last week I spoke to you about June's pregnancy? (*listens*) Yes, Sir. I just spoke with June, and, well, I think we are going to have to deal with this baby issue sooner than we anticipated.

HELEN: UHHHH. (*gasps*)

MARGARET: Mr. Abrams, all the residents like her and they'll miss her. (*listens*) Oh, I think they can handle that but we're going to have problems after the baby's born.

(*Helen peers between the trees and reacts, scurries offstage to tell others.*)

MARGARET: (*stands to take full focus*) I'm sure I can find another cook to replace her.

(*Beth enters the dining area reading her mail. Helen enters, sees her and hurries over looking like she is about to explode.*)

HELEN: (*almost shouting surprises Beth. Beth's mail goes flying.*) Beth, I'm so glad I found you. I want to tell you a confidence. Our friend June is pregnant.

BETH: (*comes to June's defense*) That's impossible. I don't believe it.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!