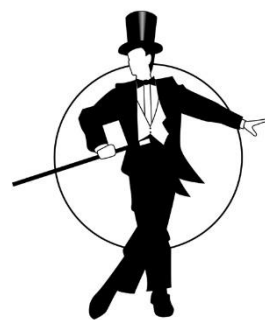


Dumpster Divers

Barbara Nouvel



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THE DUMPSTER DIVERS

By Barbara Nouvel

CAST

MARTHA: Woman in her early to mid-sixties.

DORIS: Martha's bridge-playing friend. Mid to late sixties.

AGNES: Martha's friend. Late sixties, early seventies.

JANITOR: Works for the apartment building.

HILDA: Elderly lady who appears briefly dressed in a robe & slippers.

CREW PERSON: Unseen. No speaking. Can do sound effects.

Place:

The back of an apartment building.

Time:

The present. A Monday morning in early fall.

Setting: The back of an apartment building. There's a door in the building and a walkway along the side. A sign on the building shows an arrow pointing to 'Tenant Parking only.' There are some empty boxes on the ground. A dumpster on center stage is made from a large refrigerator box painted grey. It has only three sides.

At Rise: MARTHA is standing near the dumpster talking on her cell phone.

MARTHA: Doris! Doris, pick up the phone. *(listens)* Oh geez, Doris. Please pick up the phone. This is an emergency. Oh sh...crap. What am I gonna do? *(Hangs up and dials another number. She brightens when the phone is answered).* Agnes, oh thank God. I need your help. It's an emergency. I tried calling Doris but...*(listens)* She's with you? Oh great. I need you both to meet me at Hilda's now. Never mind why, I'll explain when you get here. But you've got to hurry. *(listens)* I told you Agnes, this is an emergency—you need to come now. No, NOW!

(She hangs up and dials another number) Thelma, this is Martha. I'm going to be late for bridge *(listens)* I know I'm supposed to bring the boards and bidding boxes. That's why I'll be late. *(listens)* It's a long story. We don't have to go into it now. I'll get there as soon as I can. *(listens)* I am NOT holding everyone up. *(listens)* Because Agnes and Doris aren't there either. *(listens irritably)* Because they're on their way to help me that's how I

know. *(listens)* I said I'd get there as soon as I can. Bye. *(she paces back and forth, alternating between looking at her watch and at the walkway next to the building)*

(enter DORIS and AGNES, talking and laughing together)

MARTHA: Oh there you are. It took you long enough!

AGNES: What the heck you talking about? We were on our way to play bridge when you called so we turned right around.

DORIS: Yeah. This better be important. We wanted to stop at Starbucks, but came here instead. I haven't had my morning caffeine fix, so be careful about getting on my nerves.

AGNES: What's this huge emergency anyway?

MARTHA: Hilda can't come to bridge today, so she asked me to stop by her place and pick up the boards and bidding boxes. I said sure. It's on my way.

DORIS: This is the emergency?

AGNES: How heavy are they that it takes three of us?

MARTHA: *(exasperated)* I don't need your help to carry them. I need you to help me figure out how to get them out of the dumpster.

DORIS and AGNES: WHAT?

DORIS: Oh my God. You're kidding. You are kidding, right?

(MARTHA grimaces)

AGNES: What the heck are they doing in the dumpster?

MARTHA: It doesn't matter how they got in there. We just have to get them out.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!