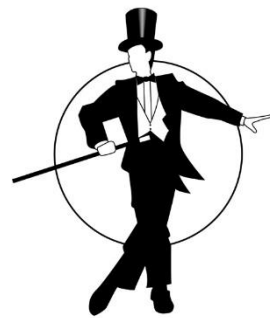


A Memoir of Jackson

Rona Altrows



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A MEMOIR OF JACKSON

By Rona Altrows

CAST

PENNER: A man or woman in their eighties.

GINNI: A social worker who facilitates programs at a senior recreation center.

NOTE: Since Penner can be a man or a woman, change the "Mr." to "Ms." or "Mrs." if the role is played by a woman.

Place

A program room in a senior recreation center.

Time

Today, 3:00 pm.

MEMOIR OF JACKSON

(Today's session of the memoir writing class has just ended and participants have left, except for Penner, who hangs back. He approaches Ginni as she gathers up papers.)

PENNER: Ginni?

GINNI: Yes, Mr. Penner?

PENNER: Got a sec?

GINNI: Well, I need to help set up for a class in the pottery studio.

PENNER: Won't take long.

GINNI: Okay, I have a few minutes. What's on your mind?

PENNER: I wanna write a memoir of Jackson.

GINNI: What...where does this come from, Mr. Penner?

PENNER: My head.

GINNI: But it's a complete...change of direction.

PENNER: Yup.

GINNI: But you've already been working on—

PENNER: *(interrupting)* I know what I've been working on. I'm old, not stupid.

GINNI: It's just that this is a total...departure.

PENNER: So? People change their minds.

GINNI: This is so drastic. There must be another way. You can *incorporate* Jackson.

PENNER: Why? He's not a business.

GINNI: You know what I mean—you can mention him in what you've already written.

PENNER: What I've already written is drek. Jackson deserves better.

GINNI: I agree, he should have the best, but—

PENNER: Enough with the buts! My mind's made up.

GINNI: *(pause)* Okay.

PENNER: What? You'll let me?

GINNI: It's what you want, right? This is a memoir class. You want to write a memoir—just not an autobiography.

PENNER: Everybody else in the class is writing an autobiography.

GINNI: So were you, until a couple of minutes ago. But now, you want to scrap all those months of work you've done and write a different kind of memoir. A memoir of your cat. And really, who am I to stop you?

PENNER: Awright, thanks.

GINNI: *(pause)* Have you thought about how you want to...approach it?

PENNER: Approach it? I'm not asking it out on a date. I just wanna write the damn thing.

GINNI: Well, you're obviously passionate about the subject. I mean, you told the class about Jackson on the first day, when we were talking about important influences in our lives...you know, before everyone started writing.

PENNER: Yeah.

GINNI: So obviously Jackson was foremost in your mind at the time.

PENNER: Still is.

GINNI: Aw, that's sweet...I just think, well, maybe, you don't have enough information for a memoir of Jackson.

PENNER: I've got plenty of information. We live together, right? I know his habits. His quirks. What he goes for. What he won't put up with.

GINNI: But you told me...you told the class, I mean...I'm trying to remember...Jackson was about thirteen when you adopted him?

PENNER: So? Just because someone is old doesn't mean he's useless.

GINNI: (*jumping in*) What? I know you're not useless.

PENNER: I'm talking about *Jackson*.

GINNI: Oh...sorry. True, for a cat, thirteen is...mature, I guess. To be honest, I'm pretty ignorant about cats. I've never owned one. Allergies.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!