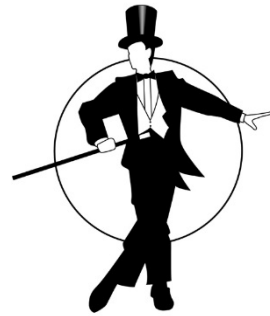


Not Kate or Leo

Barbara Trainin Blank



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Not Kate or Leo

NOT KATE OR LEO

By Barbara Trainin Blank

CAST

ISIDOR STRAUS was 67 when he died on the maiden voyage of The Titanic. Co-owner of Macy's department store with his brother, Nathan, ISIDOR served on the House of Representatives and was a prominent philanthropist for charitable and educational causes.

IDA STRAUS was 63 when she also died on The Titanic. A mother of seven children, she was close to her husband, so much so that they wrote to each other every day when he traveled.

Place

On a park bench.

Time

2012—The Centennial of the sinking of The Titanic.

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(Isidor and Ida Strauss enter. The stage is bare except for a park bench. She is pulling his hand, walking fast in front of him. He is resisting, pulling back.)

ISIDOR: What is it, Ida?

IDA: I have to show you something.

ISIDOR: You know I can't walk that fast. I have to sit down.

IDA: It'll only take a minute. You'll sit after.

ISIDOR: Nothing you do takes only a minute. It's not in a woman's...

IDA: Very funny. It will.

ISIDOR: I've got to sit down.

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IDA: You'll sit afterwards.

ISIDOR: So, you said. I'm going to get out of breath.

IDA: No, you're not.

ISIDOR: Yes, I am.

IDA: You can't.

ISIDOR: Why do you mean I can't?

IDA: You just can't. Trust me.

ISIDOR: Normally I do, but not this time. Let me sit down. Then you'll show me whatever it is. Unless it's a rainbow it'll still be there in five minutes, won't it?

IDA: It's something more concrete.

ISIDOR: Then it'll certainly be there.

IDA: Isidor...oh, all right. Sit for two seconds.

ISIDOR: *(he sits; so does she. He breathes deeply, then puts his arm around her)* That's much better. You know...there's something familiar about this...

IDA: Your arm around me? It should be familiar. You've been doing it for decades.

ISIDOR: You wicked woman. That's not what I meant. At least, that's not the only thing I meant. It's the word "sit."

IDA: What's so special about the word "sit?" You sound delirious, you know? *(She stands up)* Are you rested now? Can we look at what I want to show you?

ISIDOR: Are you kidding? I've got to sit for at least 10 minutes. Plus, something is coming back to me. I've got to think...No, no. I see it clearly. A ship. We were sitting very close on the deck of a ship.

IDA: And?

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ISIDOR: No, let me talk.

IDA: All right, sit and talk. There's no convincing you of anything when you're stubborn.

ISIDOR: I'm stubborn? You're the one who's stubborn. Don't you remember? I kept saying: Ida, get in that lifeboat.

IDA: You're the one who's stubborn. I kept saying, get in that lifeboat.

ISIDOR: I said it first and kept repeating it. Ida, please. Get in the boat.

IDA: Don't "please" me.

ISIDOR: I can't, Ida. I couldn't. You know that. We're on the ship now, in our minds. The boats are reserved for women and children.

IDA: I am not going without you. You heard what the captain said. You're an old man. You can get in a boat, too.

ISIDOR: Not as long as there are women and children who have no place.

IDA: You have a right. Why aren't there enough places for everyone?

ISIDOR: I wish I knew. It's fairly stupid, not to mention dangerous. And I don't know why they're not letting the third-class passengers on the boats they do have. It's unjust.

IDA: You were always a just man. But you're not getting into a boat isn't going to convince anyone to let the third-class passengers...

ISIDOR: Maybe if enough of us refuse...

IDA: They'll sail without you or them.

ISIDOR: Anyway, that's not the point. If I get in that boat, there's one less place for a woman or child. Like I said. A place they deserve more than I do.

IDA: If they didn't think it was fair, the captain wouldn't have urged you...

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ISIDOR: I know what they urged, but it's not my point of view. And now, stubborn woman, get into that boat and be saved. Go home to our children.

IDA: Our children will be all right one way or the other. They're not young anymore.

ISIDOR: No, but *their* children are. Ida, please, if you don't get in that boat, you're going to die.

IDA: That's pretty obvious. There's a hole in the bottom of the ship caused by an iceberg, we're filling up with water, and the ship is sinking. But I can't figure out that I'm going to die? How stupid do you think this woman is?

ISIDOR: Stupid, you can't be accused of. Silly, yes. Why do you want to drown?

IDA: I want to be with you. Where you go, I go. Remember Ruth?

ISIDOR: She was going to the Promised Land. You're going...

IDA: You'll be fine. I'll be fine. We'll stay together, just like we always have.

ISIDOR: You're a very stubborn woman. Drowning isn't like getting hit on the head and once and done. It's a slow process. You want to scream, but it won't do you any good.

IDA: I figured that.

ISIDOR: Then don't you want to avoid it?

IDA: What I want to avoid is being separated from you.

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!