

TO HEATHER

A One-Act Comedy

SCENE 1:

An apartment. Living room, dining area up stage right, door to kitchen behind dining area – up stage right, hallway door – up stage left, entrance door, end of stage left. Living room contains a couch, coffee table, sofa and sitting room chairs., TV set is down stage left facing up stage. At the center wall, behind the couch is a fireplace with a mantle upon which sits several framed 8x10 photos of Heather and Heather and Buddy. In the center of the mantle is an urn containing Heather's ashes.

JASON

You told me you were going to sprinkle her ashes out in the ocean. Isn't that what she wanted?

BUDDY

It's been too windy.

JASON

Three years? ... and it's still too windy?

BUDDY

It's true. Every time I get ready to do it I call that guy and he says to call back ... it's too windy.

JASON

Well ... do you ever call back?

BUDDY

Who has the time? I get busy and forget.

JASON

You've got the time now, so why don't we do it. You'll invite a few friends, we'll have a little food, a drink or two ... come on, let's do it.

BUDDY

I don't know.

JASON

You don't want to keep her sitting there all the time, do you? It's not nice. It's disheartening. Every time I come out here and stay with you, I see you spend hours just sitting and looking at your urn.

BUDDY

I like thinking about her.

JASON

I'm sure Buddy, but she should have a permanent resting place.

BUDDY

That's permanent. What's wrong with it?

JASON

You call that permanent? A clay urn as fragile as that.

(Walks over to pick up the urn.)

You drop it once ...

BUDDY

(Jumps out of his chair to stop JASON.)

No! Don't touch it!

JASON

Relax, relax. Nobody's going to touch it. But you see my point. One little accident - it gets knocked off then POOF ... it's all over ... over the floor ... Heather's gone.

BUDDY

Oh, my God ... No! Never!

JASON

That's my point. Things happen. Look, if you don't want to scatter her ashes or bury her in the urn, get a crypt.

BUDDY

She wouldn't like that.

JASON

(A thoughtful beat. A sudden idea.)

I know what! Bury her in the back yard?

BUDDY

The back yard? Are you demented?

JASON

What's wrong with that? At least you'll be close to her.

BUDDY

I tell you, Jason, I think you're ... Oh, I didn't think of that. Say, that isn't a bad idea. I could take care of her ... place flowers there ... fresh one's all the time. I think you've come up with the answer.

JASON

The only trouble with that is, if you move, you'll have to dig her up to take her with you.

BUDDY

Are you nuts? Dig her up? That's obscene.

JASON

It's done all the time.

BUDDY

I don't believe it.

JASON.

Ask around. Check the neighbors. People do it. I wouldn't, of course but it is done.

BUDDY

What do you want me to do? Go next door and ask them if they bury their family in the back yard and, "Are you going to dig them up when you move?" Come on, Jas, be reasonable.

JASON

Now that I think of it, it may not be a very good idea.

BUDDY

I like it. I think it's great. I don't have plans to move. The house is paid up. I can put a bench out there and go visit with her, fix it up with some flowers. It could be very attractive.

JASON

Uh, uh, no. It's not so much that you move, but what if you join Heather? You know ... go bye-bye yourself. Then what?

BUDDY

Go bye-bye? Where? What are you talking about?

JASON

You know, kick the bucket. Who's going to take care of her? You'll be gone. You won't own the house any more. She'll be at the mercy of someone else. People who won't let me come in to put flowers on her grave in their backyard. No, I don't think so.

BUDDY

That's terrible. What am I going to do?

JASON

Well, you can't let her sit there like that. Do what she wanted?

BUDDY

I can't. She'd be gone for good if I did that.

JASON

Buddy ... she is gone for good. You've got to come to terms with that. Heather died three years ago. You can't sit around mourning her that long. You have to get on with your life. It's not healthy.

BUDDY

I'm healthy. In fact, I'm in great shape now ... no thanks to you. Last year you convinced me to -- how did you put it -- Get on with your life. Participate. Join the world. Well, I did and what did it get me?

JASON

(Waves his hand at BUDDY.)

Ahh ...

BUDDY

I went back to playing tennis so I could see my old friends again. Right? First day out I threw my shoulder and wore a cast for six months. When I got better I thought, well, maybe my buddy Jas was right, so I started going out to Dinners for Singles. I ended up with a woman whose name I can't pronounce and when I danced with her I found she had one leg shorter than the other. I never could figure out what dance we were dancing. To top it off at the next dinner, my date spilled a whole bowl of gravy over my new eight hundred dollar suit.

JASON

Well, things happen.

BUDDY

That's why I'm going to sit here and commiserate with Heather.