

WHO'S THERE?

A Ten Minute Play by Jean Blasiar

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WHO'S THERE?

CAST:

Helen Minos: (48) mother of Jessie Minos; in the initial stages of dementia.

Jessie Minos: (23) recent college graduate, unaware of her mother's current memory problems, but about to discover.

SETTING:

Present day, living room/entry of Minos family home, window facing street.

ESTIMATED RUNNING TIME: 15-20 Minutes

WHO'S THERE?

DOORBELL

HELEN MINOS (48), dressed to go out on errands come out from a back room, answers the door.

JESSIE MINOS (23), Helen's daughter, is at the door. Jesse is wearing shorts, a blouse and flip flops; carrying a backpack.

JESSIE

Surprise!

JESSIE hugs her mother.

HELEN

Jessie! What are you doing home?

JESSIE

I have a surprise.

HELEN

What is it, dear? I was just going out.

JESSIE

(shocked at her mother's response)

Mom! I drove four hundred miles to tell you my surprise.
I got the job.

HELEN

What job?

JESSIE

The job. With Carter Morgan in Paris.

HELEN

What? Why didn't you... When is this...?

The first alert that something is not right at home hits Jessie.

JESSIE
(sarcastically)
May I come in?

HELEN
Of course, dear. Come in.

JESSIE walks in, sets down her backpack, looks around.

JESSIE
You doing your own housecleaning, Mom?

JESSIE runs her finger over an end table top, looks at her finger.

HELEN
I had to let Mrs. Snyder go.

JESSIE
No. Why?

HELEN
It's a long story, dear. I'm missing several things.

JESSIE
You think Mrs. Snyder took them? Mom!

HELEN
No one else has been here.

JESSIE
Maybe you misplaced them.

HELEN
I've looked everywhere. My pearl earrings. My Pashmina.

JESSIE plops down on the sofa. A lot going on.

JESSIE
Have you talked to William?

HELEN

No, I haven't. He's very busy with his job, you know.
At the bank.

JESSIE

The bank? You mean that job at Wells Fargo? Mom...
that was in high school.

HELEN

Well, of course, that's how he started, and now he's a big
executive, isn't he. With a new girl friend. What's her
name again?

JESSIE

His wife, Maria?

HELEN

I'll get you a cup of tea, dear. Tell me again why you
stopped by?

JESSIE

Stopped by? Mom, I just drove in from Berkeley to
surprise you.

HELEN

And you did, dear. You really did surprise me. You
must be exhausted. Have a cup of tea.

JESSIE

Have you seen Doctor Ferrell lately?

HELEN

Yes, I have. He and his wife attended the Assistance League
fundraiser last month. She's a beautiful woman. They seem
very happy.

JESSIE

You've accepted it then, his marriage.

HELEN

Well, of course, I have, dear. He deserves to be happy after
his wife died.

JESSIE

And you don't care about him any more?

HELEN

Care about him? Certainly, I care about him. He's been my doctor for over twenty years.

JESSIE

I mean, are you still in love with him? You two dated for almost a year.

HELEN

Oh, Jessie. Don't believe rumors. Doctor Ferrell and I are just good friends. I was delighted when that lovely widow moved to town and the two of them started seeing each other. And so was your brother. William and I talked about it. Now what about that tea?

JESSIE

Can I help?

HELEN

No, dear, you make yourself comfortable. There's a new "People" I picked up. On the table.

HELEN exits to the back rooms.

JESSIE waits a few seconds, takes out her cell phone hits the speed dial.

JESSIE

(on the phone)

William, I'm sorry to call you at work, but this is an emergency.

(listens)

No, I'm at Mom's. I just got in. Have you talked to mom lately?

(listens)

JESSIE (cont'd)

(on the phone with her brother, William)

Well, you better get home this week-end. I'm afraid to think.

It's...some sort of dementia, I think. Maybe even...

(composes herself, continues)

I came home to tell her that I was going to take the job in Paris with Carter Morgan. I'm supposed to leave next week.

