

THE APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

a play in one act

by Dave Morgan

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The Appointment with God (Written by Dave Morgan)

This is a family drama in one act with conflict and misunderstandings about a husband and wife who live past each other yet remain happy in their own little worlds. They are immigrants to the US where the good life gets a little complicated when they try to second guess a disruptive phone call.

Cast of 3

Cast

Frank:

Male in his 40's self-confident over achiever with blinkers; he lives for his golf and is immensely happy about his life style. He is however getting a little insecure with the changes at work.

June :

Female in her 30's /40's who believes the world revolves around her. She has her own agenda about everything and everyone must slot in to her fancies. She has little time for Frank and thinks he is a nuisance. She has an immigrant friend Yvonne who is there to provide companionship when necessary. June domineers Yvonne; treating her more like a child or pet than a friend.

Yvonne:

Female in her 30's who is also an immigrant and hangs onto June for companionship. She is a dreamer and in love with the world however June has given her an inferiority complex and bullies her. She thinks Frank is a sweetie and longs for his affection, but Frank is a golfer and is blissfully unaware of this.

Directors Notes:

The purpose of the play is to get the audience to buy into the land of plenty and picture themselves in the wonderful snow covered mountains, lakes, log cabins and illicit affairs with ski instructors that these people have at their disposal since they emigrated there. The audience should worry for Frank who is not used to this situation and they should dislike June's self-interest. They empathise with Yvonne and secretly wish that Frank would take more notice of her and ditch June.

They should however recognise that Frank is an incurable golf fanatic without sympathising without June in this regard.

It is important is that the audience should believe that Frank is either asleep or pretending to be asleep and be expecting him to jump and start a fight when he hears about the ski instructor.

Even at the end there should still be doubt whether Yvonne or June is correct in their assessment of Frank's reluctance to get up and fight.

Set

2/3 piece lounge suite, coffee table, telephone, cell phone, door (stage right), 2 panel walls central, Kitchen behind 3rd panel stage left main rooms in front of 3rd panel stage left, various ornaments and drinks cabinet. Up market fashion magazines.

Opening

Curtains open with Frank coming through between 2 panels centre stage looking as pleased as punch and very excited. He's dressed in plus fours with a diamond jersey and flat cap.

Frank rubs his hands together in excitement as he walk towards the audience.

Frank (to Audience)

“Boy oh boy. Do you see that sky out there? A little bit of sun, no wind, nice and warm and a perfect day for a game of golf.”

“I can feel it in my bones... this is going to be one heck of a good day.”

“Joe and the boys had better watch out ‘cause I’m gonna clean the floor with them today.”

“I bet I come in at least 5 under my handicap. Boy are they gonna be squirming.”

“Moving to the US was the best thing I ever did.”

“Life is sooooo good.”

Frank’s Cell phone rings

Frank (eagerly answers his phone)

“I’ll bet that’s Joe now.” (and without any introductions bursts into bragging mode)

“Hey Joe; I hope you’re going to bring your wallet AND your cheque book to the course today; because I’m on a roll baby and there ain’t nothing you can do to stop me.”

3 second pause in the conversation, where Frank changes posture taking his weight on one leg and placing his opposite hand on his hip.

“Wait a minute....who is this?”

5 second pause, where Frank shifts his weight to the other foot and back again.

“What do you mean I’ve got an appointment with God at 11 o’clock? I’ve got a golf match to go to and I’ve gotta leave in just a few minutes.”

Frank looks puzzled as he asks

“Who are you?.... Coz I know that with a voice like that, you’re obviously not Janice.”

5 second pause, with Frank standing with his legs apart in a more controlled stance

“Well listen here.... JOHN..., I realise that Janice doesn’t work on Saturdays but I’ve never even heard of you; when did you start and who exactly are you.”

Pause again for a further 5 seconds where Frank starts to show frustration and impatience and starts to walk back and forth across the stage.

“So you’re his right hand man are you....and you’ve been with him for ages; well how come I’ve never met you before?”

Frank stops to face the audience and blurts out

“You phone me up out of the blue and expect me to jump and I don’t even know who you are, or even which department you’re in.”

Pause again. Frank rests his body in despair, his shoulders drop, his back is no longer straight and his knees have a slight bend whilst he listens gnashing his teeth. Frank suddenly jumps to attention and in a very agitated voice says

“Listen; I’m not getting upset, its just I have had this match arranged for ages and I need to get back into winning form and I don’t think it’s right that you drop this on me at such short notice. Can we.....

Frank throws his free arm up in exasperation spins around and continues angrily

Wait a minute, will you?”

Then a little calmer

“Can we not make it for Monday morning? “

Pause where Frank now struts back and forth across the stage listening intently.

He suddenly stops dead in his tracks with his arm raised and gesturing frustration with rapid circling of his hand and arm almost shouts as he says.

“What do you mean it’s a matter of life and death? Nothing can be that important. “

Pause as Frank listens in disbelief, his body collapsing once more and his confidence and anger gone. Again he jumps to attention and exclaims

“What do you mean you were referring to me....Am I going to get fired or something if I don’t turn up?”

Longer pause as Frank listens and is getting a bit sick of this conversation. He is back holding his weight on one leg but is looking slightly defeated. In a depressed tone he slowly asks

“well where am I meeting him then..... and how do I get there?”

Another pause. Frank's head jumps back when he hears the reply and realises he is being led by the nose. Frank is very annoyed now.

“Oh.... So Gabs will pick me up. Well that’s great..... JUST ...GREAT and he’s on his way now you say?

“Well that’s a bit presumptuous if I say so myself. What if I’d said no?”

Long gasp of exasperation as he leans forward as if to get closer to the man on the phone and barks.

“What do you mean I have no option?”

And continues without waiting for a reply

“Well tell him not to be late.”

Frank can’t slam the receiver down on his cell phone so he turns to throw the phone against the wall. Realizing this would be no good he gets even more annoyed and starts jumping up and down as he hits the tiny off button with all of

his might. Frank tries to take control as he spins around once more and slams the phone onto the couch.

Turning once more to the audience in a state of fury he explains:

“Jeez ... can you believe it... a perfect day for a perfect game of golf and this arse ruins it. He phones me up ...ON A WEEKEND...and tells me I’ll lose my job if I don’t go and meet the big boss by eleven.”

“Crap... I need to get back on form and this isn’t going to help.”

“And what will the guys say?”

Frank retrieves the phone and sits down with a thump. He rings Joe. His body slumps as he waits for an answer. Completely deflated he greets Joe.

“Hey Joe; how are you..... fine thanks.”

“Hey Joe; you haven’t been pulling a prank on me; have you?”

Pause

“No it’s just that some arse from the office called me and said I had to go in for a very important meeting; this morning would you believe....so my friend, the golf’s off I’m afraid.”

Long pause. Frank sits up and listens with shock on his face as Joe gives him a grilling. When Joe stops Frank is shocked that his friend should talk to him like that and goes quite defensive as he answers Joe

“No Joe, I don’t know who he was but he claimed to be very high up in the order of things.”

Pause as Frank listens to Joe's request and gets even more despondent.

“Yes Joe..... I’ll be cool if you give if you Bob a ring, I’m sure he’ll make a 4 ball.”

The call ends abruptly and Frank stares at the phone in disbelief. Then sarcastically snorts at the phone as if Joe might hear him

“... Enjoy.”

Frank – jumps out of his seat and spins around in frustration and shouts:

“Blast, Blast and bloody hell. I was so looking forward to a game today.”

“Boy, this had better be important.”

June - walks in from stage left with a make-up mirror applying a final dab of powder talking as she enters. She never looks at Frank as she walks to the table to look for something which is not there.

June In an extremely uninterested voice says

“Talking to yourself again are you dear?”

“What’s wrong this time then; forgotten where you left your clubs...they’re in the bathroom; although why they should be in there heaven only knows and if you think that you are going to spend the whole day down at the club without me you have another thing coming.”

Then, looking at Frank she reminds Frank

“And don’t forget we are having lunch together at your precious club.”

Frank – is standing there with his head down and shoulders rounded and answers in a depressed little boy tone

“I can’t go”

June - springs to attention and snaps at him

“What do you mean you can’t go?”

June marches towards Frank and is taking no prisoners as she says in a very condescending tone

“I’ve been trying to get you to stay at home on a weekend for years. You insist on being down at that damned club at every opportunity and you’ve never missed a single match. Now just because I’ve asked you to take me to lunch you

suddenly can't go. Who's down there that you don't want me to meet? Or have you stopped going there and just use it as an excuse to see some fancy women."

June stops looks up and thinks for a split second then breaks into another tirade

"I never did trust you and all of the time that you say you spent there."

Frank does not need this in his life and is getting very exasperated. He turns to June with a questioning look on his face as he asks

"What on earth are you on about this time?"

Holding his hands out and looking down at his attire he exclaims

"Do I look as if I'm going anywhere other than the golf club?"

June - in a winning sarcastic tone

"You see; you just said that you weren't going to the club so why ARE you dressed like that and what's the big excuse?"

Frank turns away from June once more and in a very dejected voice says

"I've got to go to work."

June – pokes him on the shoulder and snaps in a very authoritative manner

"What do you meangot to go to work? You never go near the office on a weekend. Tell them your diary is already full and they'll have to wait..... And you said you were dropping me off at Yvonne's on the way to golf so there."

Frank turns his head towards June as she continues

"I'll find my own way back, thank you very much"

Frank – turns around fully to look at June and in a worried tone says

"They said it was life and death and I must go in."

June – takes a step back and puts her hands on her hips to show her superiority over Frank and sarcastically says.

“Sounds a bit over the top if you ask me dear. Just phone them back and tell them you’re not available.”

Frank – looks a bit embarrassed as he replies defensively

“I don’t know who to phone; it was a private number.”

June – is furious goes into another tirade

“AND... you never asked”

“That’s just like a typical man. Never asks for directions, never asks for telephone numbers, never asks for anything important, just sits there and waits for inspiration”

“Well who the hell was it? Probably that Janice woman....

Suddenly bells ring in June’s head and she jumps back and snaps

“Hereshe’s not after you is she?”

“This isn’t a bit on the side is it?”

“I’ve NEVER trusted that woman.”

Frank - Sighs

“No... It was a guy called John;

Frank starts to walk away as he continues

I’ve never met him before so I don’t know who he is or how to get hold of him.”

June - back in her superior mood storms after Frank and tells him firmly

“Then phone your boss and ask him.”

Frank – stops and turns once more to her defensively saying

“I can’t; he said it was very personal and was for a “ONE on ONE” with the big boss man.”

June – pulls a face and shakes her head then showing her authority says

“Well in that case you can take me to the shops before you go; you’ve got plenty of time.”

Frank – takes a deep breath and slowly blows it out of his mouth before admitting

“I can’t: Gabs is collecting me at 9 o’clock”

June – puffing herself up with shoulders swaying back and forth attacks Frank again sarcastically announcing

“I can’t, I can’t. Is that the only phrase you know. And who the hell is this “GABS” woman; where does SHE fit in?”

“You seem to be on very friendly terms with HER.”

Frank – is exasperated once more and flaps his arms against his side leans towards June trying to make nose to nose contact as he shouts

“I don’t know who Gabs is and who’s to say she’s a”

Realising that those were not the correct words he tries again a little more controlled but still frustrated.

“Crap, what makes you think that HE’S a woman? You’ve got ME at it now.”

“Listen. You’ll either have to ask Yvonne to pick you up or go by yourself.”

June has her head back as Frank is venting but jumps straight back to snap at him

“Well that’s just fine! One word from that lot and you jump; I ask you for a small favour and you say “I can’t”. Well I’m just sick of this. You have no back bone; you just let them walk all over you. When this “GABS” woman pitches up you can just tell her to go to hell and you’re staying here. It’s Saturday for crying in a bucket.”

“Why couldn’t they tell you this yesterday, at the office, or have their silly little meeting there and then.”

Frank - Getting tired of the conversation says slowly and deliberately

“Listen June I’m just as upset about this as you are, but there’s nothing that I can do. I can’t afford to loose my job and I really was looking forward to this game of golf this morning.”

June – is shocked at what she has just heard and asks in a concerned tone that does not last past the first sentence and ending just as loud and condescending as before

“Why do you think you’ll lose your job? What have you done? Have you been fiddling your expenses? Who have you upset at the office? You must have some idea about what’s going on.” “Well don’t just stand there say something”

Frank – dips his head and puts his hands in his pockets like a naughty boy who does not want his hands slapped and sheepishly replies

“Well I think it’s the chairman who wants to see me and it could be about the new office that they are opening up in Idaho. The one where they were asking for those interested in a transfer.”

June – closes the gap and says forcefully

“Well I’ve told you before. I’m not transferring anywhere and neither are you.”

Frank – raises his head to look at June showing his sad face then dips it again as he says in a dejected and slow tone

“I know; that’s why I didn’t apply.”

Frank wanders off and plonks himself in his favourite chair looking totally dejected. Frank slowly looks up showing deep thought and exclaims in an equally worried tone

“That’s probably it. They want me to transfer or else.”

June – Shakes her head knowingly with a smirk on her face walking behind Franks Chair and says

“You wouldn’t get the chairman wanting to see you if that were the case; it would be Clive, your divisional boss.”

Frank – is suddenly sitting up and thinking positively

“You’re right dear; he must want something else. I know. He wants to give me the new office to run. That’s it. He wants to offer me the new position of running the new office and he wants me to accept. General Manager or even Director; now I could live with that”

Frank’s shoulders slump again as he realises

“But if I don’t accept, I’ll be history. Poor old James was banking on that position and his wife has been looking for houses for ages. They’ll be gutted when they find out.”

June in a haughty tone

“Well I’m not going anywhere so you can just thank him for the offer, but no thanks, not today.”

Frank jumps out of his chair giving June a fright and telling her very sternly

“Listen; if he says we have to go, then we HAVE to go and there’s no discussion about it.”

Frank then tries to sound enthusiastic

“It’ll be quite a raise and that makes for more shopping trips for you.”

June jerks her head and thinks for a second then blurts out

“I don’t want more shopping!”

“I want my friends, my mother, my gym, my sports club.”

Frank starting to get a bit more authoritative himself and getting louder says

“WELL YOU CAN’T HAVE THEM!” Then calming down a bit continues

“Either way”

Frank calms himself and continues in an informative fashion

“Because if I don’t go, I’ll lose my job and we’ll lose everything, the house friends and well, everything. Then where will you be”

There is silence then Frank continues in a matter of fact fashion

“Just call Yvonne and get her to come around and take you to the shops.

“It’ll take your mind off it and I’ll have some answers when I get back”

June – buying into the last statement says calmly as she walks around the chair to examine Frank’s attire

“Well you can’t go to see the chairman in your golfing kit.”

“Go and get changed!”

Frank wanders off stage left and June calls Yvonne.”

“Hello Yvonne, how are you dear?”

Then without waiting for an answer continues

“Do you want to join me for breakfast this morning?”

Pause then getting excited and gesturing with her hand, June continues

“That’s great I have lots to tell you. Can you call around straight away and pick me up; Frank has this very important meeting with the Chairman of his company and it looks like it might be something really big. I’ll tell you all about it when you get here.”

Frank ambles back on stage; he’s still got his golfing trousers and trainers on but has donned a coat.

June – turns to frank and glares at him saying firmly

“You CAN’T go to such an important meeting looking like THAT.”

Frank – is disinterested, he shrugs his shoulders and flaps his arms loosely by his side as he announces

“It’s Saturday. He needs to know how he’s inconvenienced me and that I have had to cancel my plans so that I can meet him.”

Frank wanders off towards his favourite chair and continues

“I’ll tell him I was going to play a round with some of my clients.”

June’s – jaw drops and is flabbergasted by Frank’s change of heart. Regaining her composure and showing her authority she says quite firmly

“You are NOT going like that; now get that lot off and get dressed properly.”

Frank looks at June then wanders then wanders off stage left without saying a word. He gives a half glance over his shoulder in slight contempt as he leaves the stage leaving June to consider the possibilities.

June slumps down on the sofa looking distinctly miserable. She looks at her cushions, turns them around then crashes them back down. Suddenly she stands up and takes a long look at her surroundings. She once more picks up a cushion, smiles putting her head to one side and playfully tosses the cushion back on the couch. She looks at the 3 piece stroking the back of it with a wry smile and then the ornaments and other pieces of furniture puckering her lips and shaking her head as if confirming that they are all useless and should be thrown out.

It is all starting to get very exciting and she rings her hands at the possibility of replacing everything and starting again.

June - is suddenly in nesting mode and walks towards the audience with a huge smile on her face and announces

“Well this is going to be such an adventure. There’ll be so much to organise and so little time, I wonder what the neighbourhood will be like, what the shops will be like.”

June turns to walk away then turns again and comes right back continuing in a very excited and informative tone nodding her head as if to ask for approval.

“We’ll need to move up market when we buy our new home. I wonder what we’ll get for this one. Frank must get a relocation allowance and that can be spent on a new bedroom suite and new dining room suite. Oh my... I can’t wait.”

There’s a knock at the door

June rushes to the door greets Yvonne.

“Hello Yvonne.....YOU were very quick, come on in.”

June gets a hold of Yvonne’s hand and drags her inside.

Yvonne starts to say

Hello Ju...

But is immediately cut off as June continues excitedly

“I hope you didn’t get any speeding fines coming over here. You know they are always trapping on Newton Road and Mrs Findley was nearly arrested when she.....”

Yvonne interrupts while she still has a chance

“It sounded very urgent on the phone...”

June turns to Yvonne and with a broad smile says

“Well of course it was.”

“Frank has got a new job and we’ll be moving to Iowa or somewhere like that. It’s so exciting.”

June appears to have forgotten about Yvonne as she walks away with her eyes raised, a hopeful smile on her face and then turning to say

“Frank is going round to meet the chairman this morning to finalise the details.”

Then walking back to Yvonne announces with a sad face quickly turning back to a knowing smile

“Oh I WILL miss you but you can come down to see us any time you want.”

Yvonne brings her hands to her face in shock. She is horrified at the thought and asks

“When did all this happen? and why didn’t you tell me earlier?”

June wanders off again looking down and gesturing that what she had to say, was of no consequence

“Well it was all a bit hush hush and we only decided to make the move this morning.”

Frank - walks into the room in a suit and starts to say

“Hello Yvonne how are....”

June immediately runs up to him and straightens his tie, spits on her hand and flattens his hair.

She then spins him around to make sure he looks ok then turns to Yvonne and smiles confidently.

Frank - staggers a bit while he regains his balance and smiles and waves at Yvonne.

