

Tranquility Disturbed

A Play in Two Acts
By
Mark Mc Quown

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Characters

Barbara Eighty nine year old mother to Lindsay. She is dying.
Lindsay Barbara's 40 year old daughter.
Stewart Lindsay's 50 year old husband. He is a writer.
Trarey Lindsay and Stewart's 14 year old daughter in high school.

Place and Time

The Place is a stylized version of Lindsay and Stewart's home which mainly consists of a higher, middle platform with a dining room table and chairs and two smaller, lower platforms which are Lindsay's sewing room and Stewart's writing room.

Stewart's writing room has a couch a chair and small computer table with computer.

Lindsay's sewing room is mainly a mess of costumes and costume pieces on a bed.

There are some sound effects including the dog which never appears.

The Time is the present.

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ACT ONE

(There is a center platform that is up four steps and has steps on all sides like a pyramid. This is Ground Zero. There is a table with four chairs. There are places for props on the back and side steps away from the audience. Against the back wall far behind the center platform is a mountain of furniture, boxes, bags, sacks and garage junk, stacked floor to ceiling and just barely visible to the audience. On stage left there is a much smaller platform that has a small couch, a computer table with computer and a chair. This is called 'His Space'. On stage right there is the same space only this is 'Her Space'. Barbara always comes up from the back of the center platform and she always exits that way as does Trairey. In a cut away in the front steps of the main platform and sitting on the stage floor is a toilet next to a bathroom vanity with a mirror which faces the audience.)

(At the beginning, after lights up, Stewart is nailing a wall just off the stage right side of the center platform. He brings a hammer and a screw gun on finally and places them on the table. He sits and finishes a cold cup of coffee.)

(His cell phone rings on the table – he looks at the number then presses a side key and it stops ringing.)

(Barbara walks slowly up the back side of the platform – guiding herself with her left hand pushed out into space like an antenna.)

(The House Phone rings off stage – an announcement from a credit card company asks the household to return this very important phone call for an offer that is only good for twenty four hours.)

STEWART

Jesus.

BARBARA

What day is this?

(Stewart jumps out of his chair and faces her.)

STEWART

Jesus, Barbara, you scared the crap out of me!!

(She looks at him duly)

BARBARA
What day is this?

He sits back down.)

STEWART
Its Monday, September 1st.

BARBARA
Oh.

STEWART
Can I help you Barbara? Are you hungry? Do you need to go to the bathroom? Barbara, did you hear me?

BARBARA
What happened to the wall?

STEWART
We closed the wall up Barbara. You don't live there anymore. You live here now and there are renters living in your house.

BARBARA
Renters?

(Slowly losing patience.)

STEWART
Can I help you Barbara, do you need something? Are you hungry?

BARBARA
Yeah. What did you have in mind?

STEWART
Of course, why did I ask. Come here Barbara. This way.

(Barbara slowly glides across the platform to the table but she can't figure out how to sit down.)

STEWART
Here, let me pull out the chair. Sit. Sit down. Barbara, sit down!

(She lowers herself carefully down still holding out her left arm in space searching for a hand hold. He pushes the chair in.)

BARBARA
What happened to the wall?

STEWART
We just discussed that Barbara. We closed up the wall and you have moved over to our house.

BARBARA
This is your house?

STEWART
Yes!! How about some toast or toast and bacon?

BARBARA
Yes.

(Stewart puts bread in the toaster on the table. He walks off the back of the platform and we hear a small door close and the hum of a microwave. He comes back up and walks back to the table.)

BARBARA
Why are you home?

STEWART
I lost my job Barbara. Now I'm on unemployment, I'm going to get Social Security in a month and we're requesting a Mortgage Modification from our lender so we don't lose our house.

BARBARA
Oh!!

STEWART
Yeah. Oh! My very words. Oh! Fuck!

(The toast pops up)

BARBARA
That scared me.

STEWART
Scared me to.

BARBARA
How old am I?

(He butters the toast)

STEWART

How old are you? You don't remember how old you are? You're eighty eight Barbara and in a few more months you will be eighty nine.

BARBARA

Oh my. Where is everyone?

STEWART

I'm here, the dog is on the couch Lindsey's at work and your grand daughter is in school.

(The microwave dings and he goes to collect the bacon.)

BARBARA

Boy, I'm just having a day. Can't remember...

(Stewart returns with the bacon and puts it in front of her on a plate.)

STEWART

Can't remember what?

BARBARA

Anything. How did I get here?

STEWART

Oh boy. Barbara? Do you know who you are?

(She thinks about it for a minute)

BARBARA

Not exactly. Who am I?

(Stewart walks into his space and collects his cell phone and returns.)

STEWART

You are my mother-in-law. I'm married to Lindsay, your daughter. Do you know who Lindsay is?

(She eats and talks)

BARBARA

My daughter.

STEWART

Thank God. Well good. Good.

(Stewart picks up a clear, plastic, salts shaker/pepper grinder and tries to twist the bottom off in order to fill it.)

STEWART
You're kidding me.

BARBARA
I didn't say anything.

(He puts a towel on the tiny turning wheel and twists with all his strength.)

STEWART
Crap on this.

BARBARA
I didn't say anything.

(Stewart stands up with the shaker in his hands and tries again with the towel to twist off the bottom.)

STEWART
This can't be true.

BARBARA
What is it?

(He slams the plastic shaker on the table and walks off the back of the platform quickly and just as quickly returns with a pair of pliers.)

STEWART
You just don't know who you're dealing with.

(Standing, he applies the pliers to the bottom of the shaker and twists as hard as he possibly can. He slams the shaker down again on the table and then sits in defeat.)

STEWART
It can't be true. How are you suppose to put the pepper corns in if you can't get the bottom off. This is sooooo stupid.

BARBARA
What are you doing?

STEWART

I am attempting to put pepper corns in the grinder part of this shaker but I can't get the stupid bottom off.

BARBARA

Maybe they go in the top.

STEWART

That's crap!! There is no way for them to go in the top. The salt shaker is on the top. How could they go...

(Stewart examines the shaker closely. He unscrews the plastic knob on the top of the shaker and then he pulls in short strong yanks until the salt container slides off a steel shaft into his hands.)

STEWART

Incredible. I can only say that it was designed by a moron, also by a man and it's a trick to mess up your life as long as you possess the thing – unless you remember that the secret top comes off .

(He opens the pepper corn bottle and pours them into the grinder. He puts it all back together.)

STEWART

That was great Barbara. I think you're in la-la land – but in the end it's me whose lost in space with no regard for the elderly.

(Barbara is still eating. She absent mindedly picks up a sheet of paper that says, 'CURB YOUR DOG' in large, bold letters.

STEWART

We have some neighbor dog whose owner has decided that in the dark of night, the bowser gets to poop on our lawn.

BARBARA

They don't pick it up.

STEWART

Nope!.. It's suddenly our problem. Just incredible.. Just so much like life in its incredibleness. Some neighbor just lets their dog crap on our lawn and then – what? – do they run away in the night, pulling the bowser like an out-of-control trailer? Oh look; look Barbara, a humming bird.

(They are both looking straight out the kitchen window towards the audience.)

STEWART

See, its right there in the yellow flower; I mean orange flower.

BARBARA

Oh yes.

STEWART

That's pretty rare, seeing a humming bird this close. Its – tiny, emerald bird, frozen in space – eating.

BARBARA

Drinking.

STEWART

Right. The long tongue.

(Barbara eats very, very slowly and keeps track now of the outside birds fighting over the bird feeder.)

BARBARA

Just remind me again – who am I?

(Stewart looks at her trying to determine if she is messing with him.)

STEWART

Barbara. Your name is Barbara and your daughter is...

BARBARA

...Lindsay. I think I've got that part. How many children do I have?

STEWART

You – well, that fact is – there is Lindsay and your other daughter and son except they live in the South – not here in California.

BARBARA

So – three? That's three?

(Stewart looks at her for a moment calculating his answer.)

STEWART

Ahhh. You had one more – let's see, how can I say this...

BARBARA

Plus one? Three plus one?

STEWART

Yes. Four all together.

(Stewart's cell phone rings on the table. He picks it up, looks at the number and then hits a small button to stop the phone from ringing.)

BARBARA

Is that Lindsay?

STEWART

No! Credit card companies. Lindsay told you we had to stop paying on our credit cards when I lost my job so – now they call on our cell phones and on the land line – which is why we don't answer that phone any more.

(Stewart turns around quickly facing the back of the platform and yells at the dog.)

STEWART

Hey! You! Get back on that couch. On the couch! Up! Up!!! And stay!!!

BARBARA

Was she bad?

STEWART

No, we had surgery done on her ear and they don't want her to scratch it so they gave us a cone to put on her but we're not putting a cone on a seventy eight pound boxer – so we tranquilized her instead but she doesn't know that. These Vets do this so much they don't realize that some animals just don't fit into the perimeters. This dog is one of those. She would take a cone and tear the house down with it along with the surgery on her ear. I'm not boring you am I?

BARBARA

I still don't see the humming bird.

STEWART

They keep moving – unlike us who just stop moving after while. So Barbara. Do want to watch some television? “Mash”? “Golden Girls”? “The Today Show”?

BARBARA

What? I didn't understand a word you said.

STEWART

How about TV?!!

(pause)

“Mash”?

(pause)
“The Today Show”?

BARBARA
That’ll be all right.

(Stewart stands and walks off the back of the platform)

STEWART (Off Stage)
This way Barbara!!!

(She jumps)

BARBARA
Ohhh!

(Barbara slowly gets up and turns towards the back of the platform. She passes Stewart on his return journey.)

STEWART
The TV is on. First door to your left, down the hall.

(She disappears down the back of the platform. Stewart sits at the table facing out.)

STEWART
I’ve considered writing a comedy show.

(He plays with a pencil)

STEWART
Only, when the comedy reaches a certain height in this story it immediately turns to drama – or tragedy depending on how deep the moment strikes you in your wallet.

(The cell phone rings on the table. Stewart looks at the number and then kills the ring tone.)

STEWART
Creditors.

(The dog starts barking behind the center platform.)

STEWART
Hey. You. Cool it. What is the matter with you anyway?

(The dog stops as Trarey comes up the back steps. Trarey is fourteen and a Sophomore in high school.)

(Stewart hears his phone ring again so he turns, picks it up, pushes the silent ring and puts it down. Trarey throws her school books on the table and Stewart jumps straight up.)

STEWART

Jesus Trarey, what is wrong with you?

TRAREY

What is it dad?

STEWART

You scared the crap out of me.

TRAREY

Didn't you hear the dog?

STEWART

Of course I heard the dog; I told her to shut up.

TRAREY

You did?

STEWART

Never mind! What are you doing here anyway?

TRAREY

It's a short day dad, I told you this morning.

STEWART

For what?

TRAREY

Teacher preparedness – jeese dad.

(Trarey walks off the back of the platform.)

STEWART

I thought they we're prepared when we hired them. Isn't that what we pay them for – is to be prepared? Christ!

(Trarey screams off stage.)

(Stewart picks up his coffee cup and takes a sip.)

TRAREY (O.S.)
Dad!!!

STEWART
What is it Trarey?!!!

TRAREY (O.S.)
Grandma left something on the bathroom floor. Help me.

(Stewart stares straight and slowly shakes his head.)

STEWART
How far can you be reduced before...

TRAREY (O.S.)
Dad!!!!

STEWART
Can't you clean it up?

TRAREY (O.S.)
No, I'll throw up!!

(He throws his hands up in the air, stands and walks off the back of the steps.)

STEWART (O.S.)
You have to be kidding me!!!

TRAREY (O.S.)
I told you.

(Stewart chokes and gags off stage.)

STEWART (O.S.)
Fuck! Fuck!! Fuck!!!

(After a moment Stewart storms back on stage. He crosses down to his area and takes a bottle of Tequila from an unseen shelf and pours a single shot.)

STEWART
This – is tranquility disturbed. This is the end of one's life where there are no other possibilities. I am reduced to a shit cleaner.

(He pours and drinks another shot and then sits at the computer table.)

(Trarey comes around from stage right and puts on her make up facing the mirror in the cut out slot of the front steps.)

STEWART

I would start by saying – we come into this earth in diapers and that is cool. But – if we have to go out of this earth in diapers – that sucks. Does God not understand that there is a big difference between putting diapers on your baby or diapers on your mother-in-law. Big. Trarey? Trarey?!!

(They call across to each other like they were in a real house.)

TRAREY

What dad!! God!!

STEWART

Where are you?

TRAREY

In the bathroom doing my make up.

STEWART

How old are you?

TRAREY

I'll be fifteen in seven months.

STEWART

What are you putting makeup on for?

TRAREY

Dad?!!

(Barbara wanders up the back steps guiding herself with her out reached left hand seeking something solid in space. She steps up to the table and turns completely around before she sits at the end with her back facing stage left.)

(Stewart drops his head, stands up and ambles back up to the center platform.)

(Barbara reaches over absent mindedly and picks up a copy of an article and reads.)

STEWART

Ah, Barbara. Back are we? Hello? Barbara?

(She can't really hear)

BARBARA
What's this?

STEWART
We bombed the moon.

(Stewart picks up his cold coffee and drinks.)

BARBARA
We what?!!

STEWART
We bombed the moon – literally.

(He reaches across the table and pulls the article out of her hands.)

BARBARA
Hey!!

STEWART
“A California spacecraft, bound for deliberate doom inside a crater on the moon is scheduled to soar into space today, along with a lunar orbiter searching for safe landing sites where humans might one day establish Earth's first colony. “The spacecraft will send a heavy rocket crashing into the moon's south polar region on a mission to find water that could support future crews...” “With its mission finished, the spacecraft will die in it's own final crash to the lunar surface”

BARBARA
What are they talking about? Did that happen?

STEWART
It did. Actually just a little awhile ago today.

(Trarey walks up the front steps to the top of the platform and picks up books she left on the table.)

TRAREY
What are you guys talking about?

BARBARA
Your dad said someone bombed the moon.

TRAREY

Come on dad, who could be that stupid?

STEWART

NASA and the Ames Research Center, Trarey, crashed an empty, two ton rocket into a crater inside a crater on the moon. The rocket hit the moon going five thousand six hundred miles an hour and blew a crater five miles wide and very, very deep.

TRAREY

Dad, you're just making this up to scare grandma.

(Stewart sails the copy down to her across the table, like a paper air plane. Trarey read it.)

TRAREY

Oh my God. Oh my God. I can't even believe I'm reading this. I have to take this to school tomorrow, is that alright?

STEWART

Sure, but don't be too disappointed if no one believes you.

TRAREY

But it happened; it says so right here. I'm going to the park is that all right?

STEWART

With who.

(She is already walking down the back steps with the article in her hand.)

TRAREY

With friends.

STEWART

Don't stay out past dark.

(Trarey is already out of sight.)

TRAREY (O.S.)

Dad, I'm just going to the park!!

(The front door slams off stage.)

STEWART

What about your homework?!!!!

(The dog starts barking wildly. The front door slams shut again.)

STEWART

Be quiet dog – crikee.

(Lindsay comes up the back steps of the platform and hangs her purse on a chair and throws her left over lunch container on the table.)

LINDSAY

I am not the dog even though you may want me to be sometimes.

STEWART

What happened to you?

LINDSAY

What happened to me? What happened to me? I have a show opening in three days and I'm not finished so say nothing to me until after Friday when I'll probably be too drunk to understand anyway. Hi mom.

BARBARA

They bombed the moon.

LINDSAY

What? What did you say mom? What are you talking about?
We didn't bomb the moon for God's sake.

BARBARA

That's what it said. Right on the paper.

LINDSAY

What paper?

STEWART

Trarey took it – for school.

LINDSAY

What are you two talking about even.

STEWART

NASA bombed the moon on a water seeking mission for astronauts in the future.

LINDSAY

I can't think about this now. I just can't. I can't even...

(Lindsay walks down the front steps and turns right to 'her space'. She takes a costume piece out and sits on a chair and hands sews it.)

LINDSAY

I don't know where I am with this show. Some pieces I like, some pieces I have and some just don't go – plus the set is sooooo...

(Stewart walks off the back of the platform with his cup and returns with more coffee.)

STEWART

Your mother is in la la land.

LINDSAY

I can't deal with my mother right now.

STEWART

She didn't know who she was when she got up this morning.

LINDSAY

What?!!

STEWART

She didn't know who I was or why the door in the wall had been covered up.

LINDSAY

Why didn't you call me?!!!

STEWART

You must be joking, right? I can't even talk to you now in this room and you want me to call you ?!!!

LINDSAY

She's sick, don't you get that? She doesn't act that way when she's feeling alright.

(Lindsay leaves her sewing and walks up to the table and sits down.)

STEWART

She's in la la land.

LINDSAY

She's in la la land because she's sick.. She has a urine infection.

STEWART

She's a control freak and she's manipulating me so she can get what she wants.

LINDSAY

You are so full of it. She has a urine infection which affects her mind. It causes her to lose her whole relationship with time and her surroundings. That's why she says she doesn't know you. It's a kind of dementia and she needs antibiotics to stop it. And – she's a control freak to a certain point. Remember, you're both Capricorn so that says a lot right away.

STEWART

How could an infection in her bladder turn her into Jekyll and Hyde?

LINDSAY

I don't know, I'm not a doctor. All I know is that urine infections in older people can cause them to go into dementia and lose their relationship with space and time.

STEWART

Drug addicts have been doing that for years.

LINDSAY

Stewart!!!?

STEWART

Hey! I'm the one who is home alone with your mother.

LINDSAY

You're here Stewart because you lost your job even though it wasn't your fault this time. I have to get my mother to a doctors this week.

STEWART

She missed the toilet with half her...

LINDSAY

Alright Stewart, I don't need a Van Gough. You cleaned it up, right?!!

STEWART

That is the point.

LINDSAY

Yes!! Exactly!! That is the point. You are the responsible adult who is home with ...

STEWART
...your mother!

LINDSAY
That's right Stewart, she is my mother and if your were working someone else would be here with her but we can't afford that someone else until you go back to work.

(Gets up and walks towards his space.)

STEWART
That's a 'catch 22'.

LINDSAY
What did you say?

STEWART
I look for work every day. Every day!!

(He sits down in front of his computer as Lindsay looks through the mail.)

LINDSAY
Stewart. I know you hate doing this every day with my mother but there aren't any choices unless we want to lose our house like a record number of Americans have to date.

STEWART
I don't hate you mother.

LINDSAY
Of course you don't.

STEWART
I just can't figure out if she is messing with me or she is just truly out there in some other world.

LINDSAY
I'm sure it's a little of both but the important thing to remember is that she just isn't the same person she was even a year ago. She's never going to be the same. When she looks at me and says she doesn't know me – you know – it's the same with your mother. She's never going to be the same and now she doesn't even know us.

(She drops her head into her hands and holds on to her tears.)

(Stewart leaves his space and walks up the steps to the center.)

STEWART
She flashed me the other day.

LINDSAY
What?!!

STEWART
I'm serious. She came out of her room and stood in the doorway and flashed me with her naked butt.

LINDSAY
You see what I'm saying? That's not my mother; that's some infection taking over her mind. She isn't like that! My mother would never do that – if she wasn't sick. Where's Trarey?

STEWART
At the park.

LINDSAY
At this hour? With who?

STEWART
With friends.

LINDSAY
That's all you know?

STEWART
Listen!! I am dealing with your mom who is a piece of work in herself so don't get me embattled with Trarey because I just can't take the crap.

LINDSAY
You have to talk to your daughter...

STEWART
... I am not talking to her about...

LINDSAY
...about who she is out with and...

STEWART
...where she is when she's less than four blocks away because...

LINDSAY

...when she's coming home. Did she do her homework?

STEWART

... I just can't compute it all with my broken down brain.
Did she what?!!

(Stewart's cell phone rings. Lindsay reaches for it.)

STEWART

Don't answer it. Its just creditors. They're on computer cycles so I
can tell you who it is by what time of day it is. That's Discover
Card.

LINDSAY

How much do we owe, really?

STEWART

You don't want to know. Our house wouldn't even bail us out now.

LINDSAY

We should be thankful my mother is here because she is saving our ass
with her money.

STEWART

Yes and we are saving her ass because if she wasn't here she would have
to be in an assisted living home and she doesn't have four grand a month
to do that.

LINDSAY

That's right Stew so get over it and take charge so we can move on.

STEWART

Aye, aye captain.

LINDSAY

And don't play Johnny Depp with me, I don't like it.

(She walks down to her space and picks up some sewing and throws it into a bag.
She returns to the table.)

STEWART

Where are you going?

LINDSAY

To a dress rehearsal, what do you think?

STEWART

But – but – what about...

LINDSAY

...WHAT?!!! Call Trarey and tell her to come home.
Cook some dinner for her and my mom. Get into it master Chef.

STEWART

I'm looking for another place to live I just want you to know.

LINDSAY

So am I Stew and I may have found one with a couple of young, cute men.

(She gathers her things and walks down the back steps and disappears in the junk.)

(Stewart is left standing, staring out – thinking.)

STEWART

We need some help God. I'm sure I don't have to tell you why?

(Trarey comes up the back steps.)

TRAREY

What are you doing dad?

STEWART

I'm praying. I'm praying that someone listens to this prayer because we are in deep kemp chi.

TRAREY

Are we going to lose our house?

STEWART

It's possible.

TRAREY

What would we do?

STEWART

First of all Trarey, what would we do with your grandmother?
We would have to sell both houses – we would have to..

(His cell phone rings. He picks it up and yells into the cell phone.)

STEWART

Leave us alone you assholes!!!

(He tosses the phone on the table and sits down.)

TRAREY

Why do we owe so much money.

STEWART

Trarey, trust me – it is sooo complicated that...
I was out of work for twenty two months. That's
all it took because we had to use credit cards to live
on – to buy food, gas, clothes, presents and now...

TRAREY

...it's happening again.

STEWART

Yes – except this time we have the rent money from your
Grandmother's house to help us and the President has
extended unemployment to past a year so – this time we
aren't living on credit cards as long as your mother stays
working.

TRAREY

So grandma is saving us?

STEWART

We are saving each other.

TRAREY

Where's mom?

STEWART

Dress rehearsal. How is your homework?

TRAREY

Done.

(She walks down the back steps.)

STEWART

Where are you going?

TRAREY

To watch TV! Is that all right?!!

TRAREY (O.S.)

Do you believe in God?

(Stewart turns around and looks towards the hallway. He thinks.)

STEWART

Yes.

TRAREY (O.S.)

Why?

(He turns back to the table and plays with his phone unconsciously.)

STEWART

Because – because there is so much – because – I do. I can't on some word terms, explain it. It's very personal.

(Trarey comes back up and sits at the table.)

TRAREY

What about ghosts?

STEWART

Do I believe in ghosts?!!

(pause)

Yes.

TRAREY

Why?

STEWART

Listen Trarey, there is so much that cannot be explained - so much science – our own evolution as a species comes under attack constantly. Are we God's – are we the image of God – are we really smart chimpanzees? The thing is – if your knowledge reaches an end – what is on the other side of that end? More knowledge? You see what I'm saying?

TRAREY

No!!

STEWART

Anything and everything is on the other side of that end. Its endless – the possibilities and therefore to me – ghosts exist. Ghosts exist for me because

first – I think I’ve seen several – second because to say that they do not exist puts some hard control over the reality of ghosts and there is no such control except from a higher power.

TRAREY
Like God.

STEWART
Yes.

TRAREY
Thanks dad.

(She gets up and walks down the back steps and disappears.)

STEWART
Did it help?

TRAREY (O.S.)
No!!

(Stewart gets up and walks down to his space and sits at his computer.
Barbara totters up the back stairs until she reaches the table.)

BARBARA
Where’d everybody go?

(She picks up Stewart’s phone and it rings.)

BARBARA
Oh.

(Stewart continues to work without looking up.)

STEWART
Don’t answer that phone, its just creditors.

(Barbara confused puts the phone down and then puts a kitchen towel over it. She scratches the back of her head and her neck. She leans forward on the table with both hands. Barbara sits facing forward. She fiddles with anything on the table that has writing on it. Trarey’s television can be heard in the back ground. Stewart’s computer can be heard playing a local radio station. Barbara reads a pizza promotion flyer and then suddenly looks up.)

BARBARA
What day is this?

(She waits for an answer and doesn't get one.)

BARBARA
Where am I anyway. I just – don't seem to – recognize anything.

(She picks up some mail and reads the envelope.)

BARBARA
I don't recognize this address. Oh what's this?

(She reaches over and grabs a couple of pill bottles.)

BARBARA
My pills. I'll surprise them and take my pills on my own.

(She reaches over and collects a couple more small bottles of prescription medicine and puts them all in front of her. She opens the first.)

BARBARA
Which one is this. I just can't read the – where is the name. Well, it doesn't really matter. I'll take two just to be sure.

(She throws two pills in her mouth and then looks down at the other bottles. She opens two more bottles and puts pills in both hands. Trarey comes up the back steps.)

TRAREY
Grandma? Grandma what are you doing?

(Barbara turns to her and then turns back and stares out.)

TRAREY
Dad!! Dad!!!

STEWART
What is it Trarey, I'm working.

(Trarey grabs one of her grand mothers arms as she tries to eat some more pills. Trarey screams.)

TRAREY
Daaaad!!!!

(Stewart jumps up from his computer and races up the steps and runs to the table.)

TRAREY

She's taking all these pills.

(Stewart looks at the bottles, looks in Barbara's mouth and looks in both hands.)

STEWART

Barbara, what are you doing?

BARBARA

What?!!

STEWART

What are you doing with these pills?

(Barbara moves one hand closer to her mouth and Stewart grabs it. Trarey screams and backs up. Stewart wrestles the pills out of both hands. When Barbara's hands are free she grabs Stewart and digs her nails into his arms as he struggles to get the pills out of her mouth. She bites at him and then swallows the pills. Stewart yanks the bottles off the table and pushes them to one side. Barbara looks up at him and in a demonic voice she says -)

BARBARA

Don't you ever do that again!!!!

(She growls)

TRAREY

Oh my God. Oh my God.

STEWART

What were the pills Trarey that she had in her mouth?

TRAREY

I don't know dad!! I only saw them once and she was chewing on them.

STEWART

Christ!!

BARBARA

Don't you ever do...

(Stewart reaches out and grabs her by an arm and the throat.)

STEWART

You are not going to kill yourself you bitch – in my house, so your pill taking days are over.

TRAREY

Dad!!!

(Stewart lets her go.)

BARBARA

Don't talk to me that way!!

STEWART

Don't tell me how to talk to you, you pill freak. You're taking pills you already took this morning Barbara, what in the fuck is the matter with you.

(Trarey is breaking down)

TRAREY

Dad?!!

STEWART

Trarey, get some water. Get your grand mother a glass of water.

(Trarey runs off down the back stairs.)

STEWART

You're days of taking your own pills just ended. You're never going to get a chance to do that again. Ever!!!

(Barbara clinches her jaw and slowly rocks back and forth in her seat just looking straight out. Stewart takes the pill bottles over to the side of the table and tries to count how many there are in each bottle. Trarey comes back and places a glass of water in front of Barbara.)

STEWART

Drink some water Barbara while we figure out if we have to have you stomach pumped.

TRAREY

Shall I call mom?

STEWART

Yes!! Tell her to come home now! Drink some water Barbara.
DRINK IT!!!

(Trarey runs off down the back steps.)

(Barbara jumps up and looks wildly at Stewart. She looks at the glass and finally takes it and drinks.)

TRAREY (O.S.)

The pills were red. The ones in her mouth were red.

(Stewart looks at the bottles.)

STEWART

Tylenol. She ate some Tylenol.

(Stewart walks quickly to the back steps.)

STEWART

Don't call her. She only took Tylenol.

TRAREY (O.S.)

Too late. She's coming home.

STEWART

Crikee – she'll be unlivable with. Thanks Barbara, this is just great. This is exactly what we need right now. An eighty eight year old pill taker. Perfect. Thank you God.

TRAREY (O.S.)

Dad!!!

STEWART

You're right Trarey, this is not God's fault – I think.

(Trarey comes back up holding her phone.)

TRAREY

What's wrong with grandma dad? Do we need to take her to a hospital?

STEWART

She has a urine infection.

TRAREY

What? Why would that make her take too many pills?

STEWART

I'm not a doctor Trarey and I never wanted to be one but – evidently older people can become confused if they have a urine infection. Your mother will tell us if she needs to go to the hospital.

TRAREY

She's pissed. She was screaming on the phone.

STEWART

Great!! Now we face the Lebanese Terrorist in our house.

BARBARA

What time is it?

(They both turn and look at Barbara.)

TRAREY

Are you all right grandma?

BARBARA

What day is it?

TRAREY

Do you think we hurt her dad?

STEWART

We hurt her pride Trarey and – that is very important to your grand mother.