

TWO BROTHERS

- a drama in one act

by Morley Shulman

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INT. LIVING ROOM- DAY

GARY, late 20's, and JEREMY, early 30's, are sitting on a sofa while attempting to watch t.v.

GARY

It's getting late. They've probably started moving everyone by now.

Jeremy

There's no rush.

GARY

Turns off the television.

You know how much I hate chaos.

JEREMY

I was watching that!

GARY

Everything gets crazy around this time.

JEREMY

It's organized confusion. Like synchronicity.

GARY

Someone's always bumping into you. You're always in someone's way.

JEREMY

Christ. So why even bother?

GARY

What are you saying?

JEREMY

Nothing. It doesn't matter.

GARY

We have to. I have to.

JEREMY

WE don't have to do anything. You go for some altruistic good.

GARY

Meaning?

JEREMY

What difference does it make? You go. I go. We all go. And in the end, she doesn't even know we're there.

GARY

You don't know that.

JEREMY

And neither do you!

GARY

How do you know for sure she doesn't know we're there?

JEREMY

She can't even speak for God's sake!

GARY

So? Were you looking to discuss world politics with her? Or who won last night's game? What planet are you from?

JEREMY

A good visit for me is getting her to make eye contact. I drive half an hour out of my way so she can see me. That's what it's come down to!

GARY

Just because she can't speak doesn't mean she doesn't have feelings!

JEREMY

She has as much control of her mind as she does her bowels!

GARY

That's a disgusting thing to say.

JEREMY

Do you think the nurses who have to clean her shit every day would feel any differently?

GARY

She's your mother! You don't think she did the same thing for you when you were a baby?

JEREMY

Christ! She's NOT a baby Gary. At least with a baby there's some hope for the future.

GARY

So what are you saying?

JEREMY

Dammit. You really want me to say it don't you! There is NO future for her, you asshole! Are you happy now?

GARY

(Beat)
You don't know that.

JEREMY

Have you been that oblivious to her decline over the years?

GARY

But maybe-

JEREMY

There is no maybe.

Beat.

GARY

I remember when she got me a cookbook for diabetics. I tried to explain to her that I wasn't a diabetic. She didn't understand.

JEREMY

The doctor said she's in the advanced stage. Remember?

GARY

And that's why you're leaving?

JEREMY

You're not serious!

GARY

Come on Jeremy. Mom goes into a home and you and Krissy suddenly decide you want to pack up and move to Vegas?

JEREMY

Now you're the one being the asshole!

GARY

Am I? You visit her once a month, if that. I can see what's going on.

JEREMY

You don't know what you're talking about. And Krissy and I have talked about moving to Vegas for years.

GARY

First I've heard about it.

JEREMY

I'm sorry. We must have missed the memo stating that we had to discuss our future plans with you.

GARY

Don't you think I deserved some sort of explanation?

JEREMY

You want an explanation? Fine. Here it is. Only get a pen and paper because I'm sick of repeating myself. We're moving to Vegas because there's a lot more opportunity writing for the casinos than I can for some banks or condo corporations.

Beat.

GARY

So that's it? You're just leaving me like that?

JEREMY

Christ. You're worse than mom with the guilt trips.

Gary walks over to bowl of fruit on the dining room table. He starts eating an apple and begins reading the newspaper that was on the table.

Beat.

GARY

I get it.

JEREMY

What?

GARY

Ever since dad died things have been different.

JEREMY

Things change.

Gary sits down beside Jeremy.

GARY

I know what this is about.

JEREMY

You're crazy!

GARY

Am I? I've noticed a pattern.

Gary starts walking around for dramatic effect.

GARY

Dad dies. Mom gets Alzheimer's. You leave.

JEREMY

You're such a drama queen.

GARY

It all makes sense.

JEREMY

You've got everything figured out in your little mind haven't you?

GARY

Well don't I?

JEREMY

You're looking for cause and effect. There is none here.
Yes! Dad died. YES, mom is in a home. And YES, I'm leaving.
But so what?

GARY

So what? You're telling me here to my face that it's a
coincidence?

JEREMY

Yes! It's a coincidence. It's a coincidence that I want to
get on with my life.

GARY

By running away?

JEREMY

No one is running away. Am I not allowed to be happy?
There's nothing left for me here. Do you not see that?

GARY

What about me? I'm here.

JEREMY

You'll always be here Gary.

GARY

As long as mom is here then so I'll be too.

JEREMY

No one ever asked you to be a martyr. Do you think she'll
know if you come every weekend to see her or even realize if
she never sees you again?

GARY

I'll know.

JEREMY

And that's why you continue to be a martyr.

Jeremy walks back to the couch and
turns the t.v. on again.

JEREMY

But you know what? That's not me.

GARY

It's always been about you.

JEREMY

I don't need this.

Gets up and gets his jacket.

GARY
Perfect. Leave. You know what, I don't need you. I never did.

JEREMY
What?

GARY
Where were you?

JEREMY
Where was I when?

GARY
Most of my fucking life!

JEREMY
Trying to have one of my own. Was I not entitled?

GARY
I'm your little brother.

JEREMY
So?

GARY
So you weren't there then and you're not here now.

JEREMY
Is that what this is all about?

GARY
You tell me.

Jeremy puts his jacket down and slumps into a chair.

JEREMY
What do you want me to say?

GARY
You weren't there.

JEREMY
Jesus Christ, Gary. How long are you going to hold on to the past?

GARY
Most of my friends would play catch or go to the game with their siblings. Not me.

JEREMY
I was busy.