

# A FAMED LIFE

a comedy for two women

by James Hanson

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Cast of Characters

Ms. Jacobs: About 45, A veteran movie star

Yvette: About 34, a maid to Ms. Jacobs

Scene

Ms. Jacobs livingroom

Time

A morning.

ACT I/SCENE 1

*At Rise: YVETTE hands MS. Jacobs a cup of tea on a silver platter. MS. JACOBS drinks the tea while browsing on her tablet.*

MS. JACOBS

This tea isn't very good.

YVETTE

That's how I make it every morning.

MS. JACOBS

I'm probably in a bad mood. That's why.

YVETTE

This is my last time making tea for you.

MS. JACOBS

Why do you say that?

YVETTE

Today is my last day, remember?

MS. JACOBS

I'm trying to...

YVETTE

We discussed this last week Ms. Jacobs, that I'm leaving on Saturday, for another job. This is Saturday.

MS. JACOBS

Well, I didn't take you seriously, so please lets forgot about this.

YVETTE

My suitcase is packed, Ms. Jacobs.

MS. JACOBS

Then unpack it. There is no need to leave, Yvette.

*(YVETTE hands MS. JACOBS her plane ticket.)*

YVETTE

That is my plane ticket to Boston.

MS. JACOBS

I see...

*(MS. JACOBS tears the ticket.)*

YVETTE

Ms. Jacobs!

MS. JACOBS

I'll give you the money back, don't worry.

YVETTE

I'm still going, Ms. Jacobs, and there's nothing you can do to stop me!

MS. JACOBS

Why do you want to leave me? Haven't I been good to you?

YVETTE

(looking irritated)

Would you like more sugar in your coffee? It might taste better.

MS. JACOBS

You haven't answered me.

YVETTE

It's better not to say anything.

MS. JACOBS

I'll increase your pay.

YVETTE

I wouldn't work for you for a six figure pay check. I've come to realize that my mental health is more important.

MS. JACOBS

What does mental health have to do with this?

YVETTE

Ever since I've been working for you, my mental health has declined.

MS. JACOBS

You're blaming me for you losing your mind? Well, I never!

*(YVETTE puts eight spoons of sugar in MS. JACOBS coffee.)*

YVETTE

Enjoy!

MS. JACOBS

You are crazy!

YVETTE

Thanks to you!

MS. JACOBS

My word, the disrespect!

YVETTE

(To herself)

This will all be over soon.

MS. JACOBS

Will you fetch me the mail, darling?

YVETTE

You know why I am working right now? Out of respect for you. I didn't have to work today, but since I've worked for you for twelve years, I thought it was the least I could do. I could have disappeared, leave without telling you.

MS. JACOBS

(laughing)

You're not capable of such disloyalty.

YVETTE

Well, I am now.

MS. JACOBS

Have a seat next to me and lets talk things over. Boston is really far away, and how will you make a living for yourself. You live in a mansion, darling. The mansion of a movie star! I'm wondering, are you stupid or crazy?

YVETTE

I'm neither Ms. Jacobs. Just frustrated.

MS. JACOBS

About what?

YVETTE

You frustrate me, Ms. Jacobs.

MS. JACOBS

Little old me. Fantastic me. Golden Globe winner me.

YVETTE

Yes, all those things you.

MS. JACOBS

I'm not difficult.

YVETTE

Do you want me to list your faults?

MS. JACOBS

How long is this list?

YVETTE

Novel Length!

MS. JACOBS

Sorry, my attention span is so short that I only read children's books.

YVETTE

I'm going upstairs to get my suitcase.

*(MS. JACOBS grabs YVETTE's hand.)*

MS. JACOBS

*(shouting loudly)*

Wait a minute! Yvette!

YVETTE

I'm right here, and you're abusing my ears!

MS. JACOBS

Sorry. You know I was voted scream queen in 89'?

YVETTE

And 90', and 93', and 94', and you're clearly representing.

MS. JACOBS

Don't go Yvette, please. There's no one who knows me like you do. We're girlfriends. I tell you all my secrets.

YVETTE

I wish you didn't Ms. Jacobs. I wish you didn't.

MS. JACOBS

Who can I trust?

YVETTE

You'll have to find someone else. Try Craigslist.

MS. JACOBS

Will I find another Yvette there? Another sweet Yvette?

YVETTE

Flattery will not help, Ms. Jacobs.

*(YVETTE goes offstage.)*

MS. JACOBS

No, no, no, no, no, no!

*(She pulls her hair.)*

MS. JACOBS

*(Cont'd)*

What will I do? I can't do anything without Yvette! I admit, I have at times been mean to her, but she has yet to put poison in my food, which means she's a good person. Where will I find another person to put up with me? What if I google "good people looking for work." But they're in short supply, and probably sold out. How can I convince Yvette to stay? Think, think, think! She doesn't like me, which is understandable. I pay people to like me, but that doesn't work with her. Why are good people such snobs? No, no, I like Yvette the way she is. If she were another person, she'd have probably tried to murder me for my money. That's how Bertha got fired, and Tracy, and Melissa, and Amy. But good old Yvette hasn't pulled a knife on me yet, so I got to keep her. Maybe there's one way...

*(YVETTE returns onstage with a suitcase.)*

MS. JACOBS

Why don't you stay one more day?

YVETTE

Once more day might be the day that breaks me.

MS. JACOBS

You're making me sound like such a horrible person.

YVETTE

*(looking around)*

I'll sure miss here, though.

MS. JACOBS

I bought you all the stuff in that suitcase. You're taking along a lot of memories.

YVETTE

Oh, I know. I'm going to burn them in Boston. I really don't want to remember this place.

MS. JACOBS

What if I make changes?

YVETTE

What do you mean? To this place?